

◆ Exploration of the Sussex coastal plain through time

EXCAVATIONS AT TITNORE LANE, GORING-BY-SEA, WEST SUSSEX

By Chris Clarke

Excavations undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in 2008 at Titnore Lane, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex revealed evidence for activity on site spanning from the Mesolithic through into the modern period, with only the Anglo-Saxon period not represented. The earliest activity was associated with the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods and consisted of a small number of scattered features and a dispersed finds assemblage. By the Middle Bronze Age the first signs of intensive exploitation of the coastal plain were identified in the form of a trackway and associated pits. There was a greater concentration of activity on site in the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age period; evidence of a small dispersed settlement was found which incorporated a roundhouse, a livestock pen and several pits. Continuity in activity continued into the Middle to Late Iron Age periods, represented by an unenclosed nucleated settlement consisting of several phases of roundhouse construction with an associated large artificial pond and possible workshops. In a further phase of continuity, the Late Iron Age settlement was replaced by an early Roman field system and general activity associated with Goring Roman Villa, located a short distance to the south of the site. Romano-British activity continued into the 2nd century AD before the site was abandoned by the mid 2nd century AD. This hiatus lasted until the 12th century, at which point a large enclosure and a ditch system were created, which were in use up to the 14th century. A limited number of post-medieval and modern features were present, which primarily represented the agricultural use of the site over the past few hundred years.

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2008 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Gifford, on behalf of the charity St Barnabas House, to undertake large-scale excavations at Titnore Lane (NGR TQ 10490 04030) prior to the construction of new hospice facilities. The excavation followed an evaluation undertaken in 2005 by Archaeology South-East, associated with an earlier planning application. The evaluation consisted of 22 trenches covering the full area of the site, and included seven geo-archaeological test pits (Sygrave 2005). The features identified were dated to the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods, and included Neolithic pits and elements of possible Late Bronze Age roundhouses (Sygrave 2005).

The programme of works was undertaken as part of a Gifford-designed strategy, and included excavation, further small-scale trenching adjacent to the western boundary of the site in March 2009, production of a post-excavation assessment report

(Clarke 2009), analysis and publication.

The aim of this article is to present the synthesised results of the excavation, by period. The full archive will be available from Worthing Museum on completion of the project, designated under the site code 2008/238. The finds assemblage consisted of animal bone, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, environmental remains, fired clay, prehistoric flintwork, geological material, glass, human bone, prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery, post-Roman pottery, metalwork, metallurgical remains and shell. All finds were assessed and analysed by appropriate specialists. The finds reports will be accessible as part of the full excavation archive. Key research objectives have related mainly to the relationship between multiple periods of activity and the surrounding landscape, as well as to the spatial relationships and organisation taking place in each period. The article also considers the findings of previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site; the results of this associated work will be drawn into the Titnore

Lane results, allowing full and informed discussion to take place. Where possible, the results of the 2005 evaluation have been incorporated into the results, although some degree of difficulty was encountered in relating the two sets of results because of the density of features, settling of the evaluation backfill over the interceding three years, and difficulty in redefining the exact location of the evaluation trenches.

The conventions used in this article have been adopted to allow the detailed results to be simplified and reported in a more accessible manner. For this reason those specific individual features described, such as pits and post-holes, have been attributed to their original cut number in both the text and illustrations, for example [197]. The more complex features, such as roundhouses and extensive ditches, have been given feature numbers prefixed by F followed by the feature number, for example F1657. Because of the numerous phases of activity identified during the excavation associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, each period has been sub-divided into phases, and each sequential phase is designated by Roman numerals. Those finds identified as being of significant interest are illustrated, and where relevant referred to in the report by way of the figure number followed by the illustration number, for example (Fig. 23: 4).

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located on the Sussex coastal plain, between the southern edge of the South Downs and the Channel coast, centred on National Grid Reference TQ 10490 04030 (Figs 1 and 2). The western suburb of the District of Worthing lies immediately to the east. The site itself covers *c.* 2.2 hectares.

Ground level was at *c.* 12 metres above Ordnance Datum (OD), with a small gradient north to south. The underlying geology consists of Reading Beds overlain by seams of silt and gravels, with the overlying drift geology consisting of brickearth deposits. Local knowledge indicates the site is susceptible to waterlogging.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in a rich archaeological landscape, with a diverse range of archaeological activity present

on both the low-lying coastal plain and the higher ground of the South Downs to the north.

The earliest evidence for human activity in the area is associated with the Palaeolithic period. The landscape of the Sussex coastal plain would have been significantly different at this time; rather than being a coastal environment, the area along the south coast would have been one side of a land bridge joining Britain to mainland Europe (Drewett *et al.* 1988, 2). Several buried Palaeolithic coastlines have been identified in Sussex, known as the Sussex Raised Beach Sequence. They include Boxgrove, 20km to the west of the site (Roberts and Parfitt 1999), and the Brighton–Norton Raised Beach (Pope 2003, 23), which runs *c.* 400m to the north of the site. Physical evidence of Palaeolithic activity in the area is limited, consisting of isolated discoveries of flint handaxes and other implements at locations such as Worthing and Broadwater to the east, and Angmering to the west (Fig. 1) (WSSC HER 3350, 3262, 2116).

Due to the ephemeral nature of Mesolithic activity, masking effects of the accumulation of colluvial deposits at the base of the Downs, and the heavily developed character of the Sussex coastal plain, evidence for this period is not well represented. Finds of a Mesolithic date have been recovered from six sites along the Sussex coastal plain, whereas a far greater number of Mesolithic sites have been identified further inland along the South Downs and the Weald (Holgate 2003, figs. 3.2 and 3.3). In the local area, there have been numerous discoveries of individual Mesolithic flint artefacts, including flakes, scrapers and cores at locations such as Worthing, Clapham and Angmering (WSSC HER 3244, 2128, 2056). Excavations undertaken in the past 15 years have also produced scatters of material at Patching (SEAS 1994), *c.* 2km to the northwest, and West Durrington (Kirk 1998), *c.* 1.5km to the north (Fig. 1).

The Neolithic landscape of Sussex is well-known for being represented by substantial monuments such as causewayed enclosures, long barrows and flint mines, located on the higher ground of the South Downs (Drewett 2003). Evidence for activity from this period on the Sussex coastal plain is far more limited, restricted to identification of small isolated features, such as pits and gullies, and find spots (Drewett 2003). A similar picture is seen in the immediate landscape surrounding the

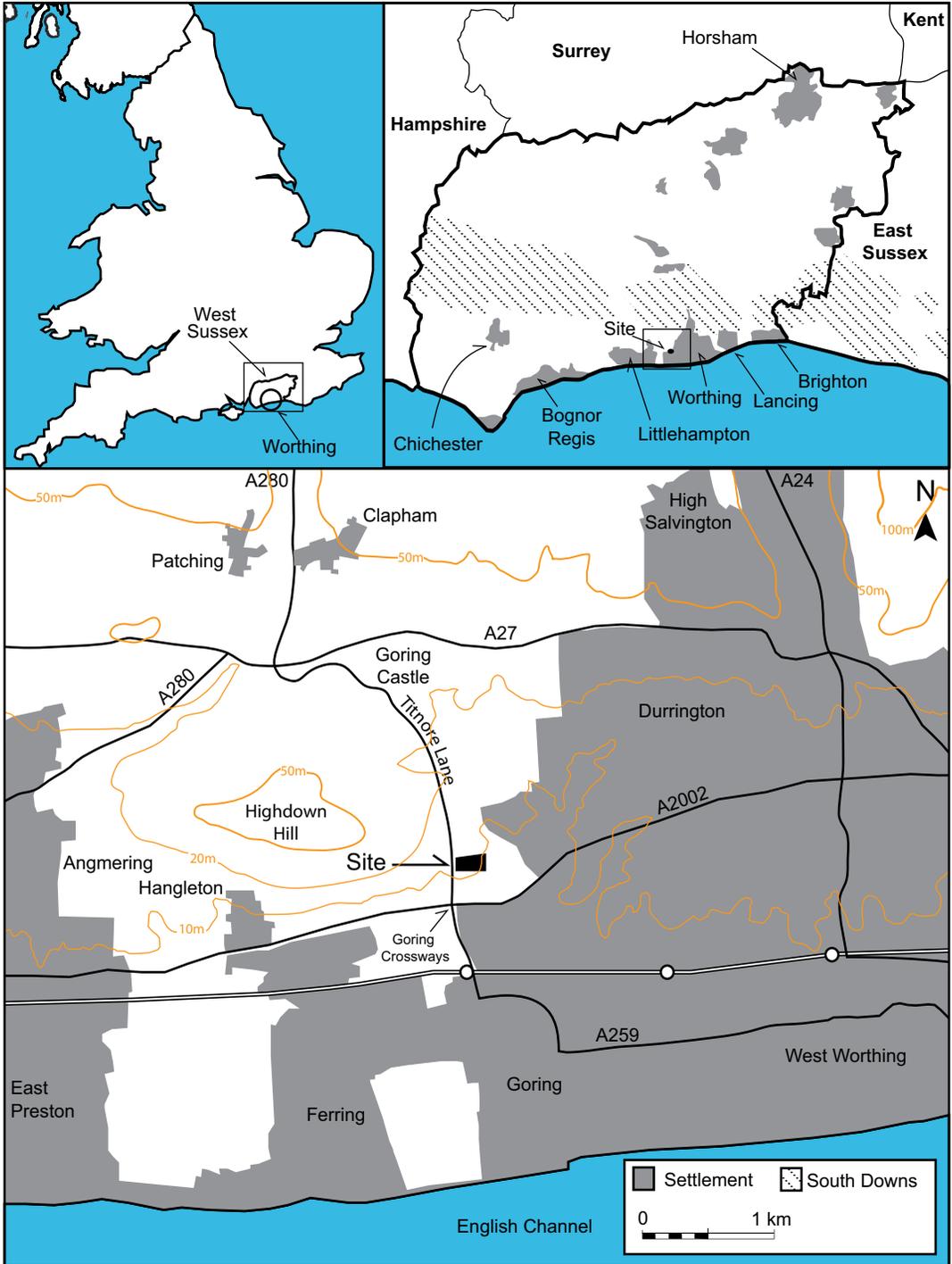


Fig 1. Location map.

site; the higher ground to the north of the site is dominated by numerous Neolithic flint mines at Cissbury, Findon, Blackpatch and Tolmare Farm (Drewett 2003, fig. 4.1), and possibly at Highdown Hill (WSCC HER 6424), the remaining evidence consisting of isolated finds of polished stone and flint axeheads. These axeheads are fairly evenly distributed throughout the area; examples have been collected from Durrington, Goring, Worthing and West Tarring (Fig. 1) (WSCC HER 3291, 3279, 3263, 3250).

The Bronze Age is a time of great change in this region of Sussex. The Early Bronze Age is represented by a rich diversity of funerary monuments identified in areas of higher ground, although there is a general lack of archaeological visibility on the lower-lying areas of the coastal plain (Drewett *et al.* 1988; Garwood 2003). The change occurs by the Middle Bronze Age, when evidence of activity becomes far more apparent, with multiple settlements recorded across the full extent of the coastal plain (Hamilton 2003). One of the most significant monuments from this period is the enclosure at Highdown Hill, which is over four times the size of the next largest enclosure in Sussex, and is thought to be at the centre of a substantial redistribution network (Drewett *et al.* 1988, 92–3). The area in which the site lies would certainly have been within the sphere of influence of the Highdown Hill enclosure. Evidence for other Later Bronze Age activity in the vicinity of the site includes two Late Bronze Age roundhouses at Centenary House, Worthing (James 2001a) and settlement evidence in the form of cremation burials and a field system at High Salvington, Durrington (Fig. 1) (WSCC HER 7937, 3109). This evidence, together with numerous discoveries listed on the WSCC HER of isolated features and finds, indicates a substantial degree of activity in the area by the Late Bronze Age.

This intensity of occupation is believed to continue into the Iron Age, primarily due to the exploitation of the coastal plain's fertile agricultural land. Evidence of this exploitation appears in the form of field systems, examples of which have been identified at Highdown and Eastwick Barn, Brighton (Russell 2000, 51). By the Middle Iron Age hillforts also appear, and dominate the higher ground to the north of the coastal plain, such as Cissbury and the Trundle, although they appear to lack evidence defining them as key centres of power

(Hamilton 2003, 79). Archaeological evidence indicates that in the Late Iron Age the localised power structure was focused in and around the oppidum at Chichester (Davenport 2003, 105–6) to the west. Settlement during this period along the coastal plain also appears to be focused to the west of the site, at locations such as North Bersted, Bognor Regis, where a roundhouse was identified as associated with large field system (Bedwin and Pitts 1978), and a further roundhouse and working area was recorded at Copse Farm, Oving (Bedwin and Holgate 1985). Evidence for settlement closer to the site is more limited, with some evidence of Iron Age occupation at Highdown c. 1.2km to the west (Fig. 1), New Barn and Muntham Court c. 5km to the north (WSCC HER 4312, 2268, 2036).

The coastal plain region remained intensely occupied from the Iron Age into the Romano-British period, demonstrated by the density of recognised villa sites in the area, examples of which are found at Angmering, Highdown Hill and Southwick (Fig. 1) (Cunliffe 1971; Rudling 1998). Highdown Hill was also a significant site in the late 3rd century AD; excavations have indicated possible refortification of the Middle Bronze Age enclosure, potentially indicative of a changing political situation (Wilson 1940, 182). The site is approximately 2km south of the alleged Roman road between Chichester and Brighton, with part of its course presumed to run immediately to the south of Clapham Common (Margary 1947a, 143; Margary 1947b, 164). The course of the Roman road has yet to be fully proven by archaeological means. The location of the site in relation to the course of the presumed Chichester and Brighton road would place it within easy reach of the established communication and trade routes of the time. Despite the volume of evidence for more high-status aspects of Roman life known in the area, it has been clearly acknowledged that rural Romano-British life has received very little detailed investigation (Rudling 2003). This is particularly evident with our understanding of villa estates, only the palace at Fishbourne benefiting from further study in this way (Manley 2003). A large number of isolated finds of Roman pottery, coins and cremation burials have been recorded in the Durrington, Goring and Worthing areas (Fig. 1), supporting the idea that the landscape in the vicinity of the site was densely occupied at this time (WSCC HER 3253, 3230, 3132).

Evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon activity in Sussex is limited, and largely restricted to the higher ground of the South Downs (Drewett *et al.* 1988, fig. 7.2). One of these Early Anglo-Saxon sites is in close proximity to the site at Highdown Hill, where approximately 150 burials dating to the 5th–6th centuries have been excavated (Welch 1983, 17). Recent reassessment of the excavations also indicates the presence of a settlement of the same date (Drewett *et al.* 1988, 270–71). Evidence for later Anglo-Saxon settlement and ecclesiastical activity is more apparent in the area of the coastal plain (Drewett *et al.* 1988, 270–71). In the immediate landscape, apart from the cemetery at Highdown Hill, evidence is restricted to several fragments of 6th century pottery from Durrington and several post-holes and pits excavated adjacent to Worthing High Street (WSCC HER 7937, 5811).

According to documentary sources, the medieval parish of Goring consisted of four manors focused on a small coastal settlement (White 2000). During the medieval period most of the parish was given over to arable farming, with up to 100 tenants recorded as present between the 11th and 15th centuries (Lewis 2009). The original church in Goring is thought to have been constructed in the late 13th century, while the village was not granted a market charter until the early 14th century. Both the church and the market appear to have formed two distinct focal points for the town's development (White 2000). Additional documentary evidence from the 14th century indicates the presence of a medieval deer park in the area to the north of the site, reaching as far north as Clapham Heath (Lewis 2009). Despite the established documentary history of the area, archaeological evidence for this period is limited. Medieval pottery has been found near Titnore Way to the north and adjacent to Littlehampton Road to the east (Stevens 1997), with limited occupation evidence identified in Durrington and Goring. Based on this evidence, it is likely that during the medieval period the site lay in the rural hinterland outside the small settlement of Goring.

It is thought that the village of Goring and the surrounding hinterland changed little during most of the post-medieval period, the local economy remaining predominately agricultural. This continuity of activity is represented by the population size; Goring is recorded as having a population of only 419 as late as 1801 (Page 1907,

126). The Tithe Map of 1839 shows the site to be the northern part of a larger open field stretching south to Goring Crossways, with the large property of Northbrook Mansion immediately to the northeast. The appointments book identifies the field as being under arable cultivation and owned by David Lyon Esq., the owner of Northbrook Mansion and several other fields in the vicinity. Intermittent arable use continued until the second half of the 20th century, ploughing taking place in the 1950s and 1960s (J. Cooper pers. comm.). At the beginning of the 19th century the development of small settlements such as Goring and Worthing changes significantly due to the growing popularity of seaside recreations and holidays, the sandy coastline of Sussex being highly attractive because of its proximity to London. Coastal villages and towns right along the Sussex coastal plain grew quickly to cater for this trend, growth which became even more rapid with the arrival of the railway in 1845 (Hare 2008). Urban expansion has continued into modern times, with the result that the site now lies on the very edge of the modern town of Worthing.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE

Many archaeological investigations have taken place on, or in close proximity to, the site over the past 30 years, and have produced a wealth of information which can be directly associated with the recent archaeological investigations (Fig. 2).

Northbrook College occupies the area of land directly to the south of the site and, due to the multiple phases of development, has been subject to four different phases of archaeological investigation. Between 1978 and 1987 several seasons of watching brief and rescue excavation took place (Fig. 2: 3). The most important features identified were a small corridor villa and associated bathhouse, thought to date to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD, associated with a range of post-built ancillary structures, corn-drying ovens and other features forming the focal element of a Romano-British villa estate. Earlier features include a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery clamp kiln, and several Iron Age pits and ditches (J. Mills and D. Rudling pers. comm.). Due to the pre-PPG16 rescue nature of the excavations undertaken at Goring villa, the project was unable to secure funds to publish the full results of the excavations.

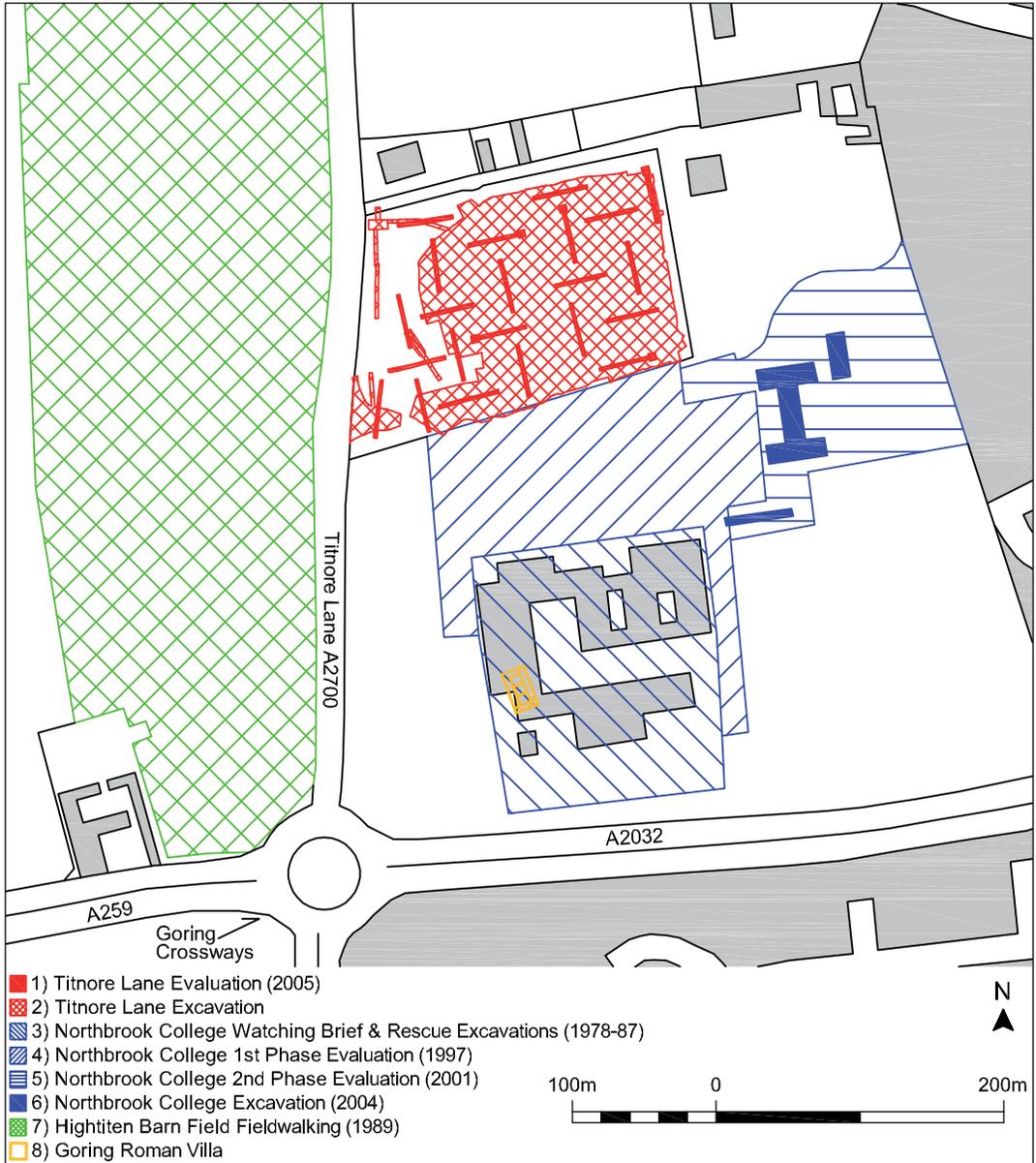


Fig. 2. Location of previous archaeological investigations.

In 1997 the first phase of evaluation work took place in the area to the north of Northbrook College. Multiple east-west aligned ditches dating to the late 1st to mid 2nd century AD were identified, as well as evidence for further ancillary structures associated with the villa estate (Fig.

2: 4). Evidence of prehistoric activity included several Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age post-holes, and a Late Iron Age ditch (Stevens 1997). In 2001 a second phase of evaluation occurred to the northeast of the main college building (Fig. 2: 5). The density of features was lower, but included

a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age clamp kiln, Late Iron Age ditches and Romano-British pits and ditches containing pottery which indicates that activity in this area continued through into the 4th century (James 2001b). In 2004 a subsequent excavation was undertaken (Fig. 2: 6) which identified two superimposed Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age roundhouses with several associated pits, and a possible Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British roundhouse (James and Barber 2004).

Other non-intrusive archaeological works have been undertaken on the opposite side of Titnore Lane (Fig. 2: 7), fieldwalking of Hightiten Barn field in 1989 producing numerous finds of Roman and medieval pottery and prehistoric worked flint associated with the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Most of the Roman and medieval pottery was collected at the southern end of the field, adjacent to the North Barn building (Yates 1990).

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

During the course of the excavations at the Titnore Lane site, nine periods of activity were recognised (Mesolithic, Neolithic, Middle to Late Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, Middle to Late Iron Age, Romano-British, 12th to 14th century, post-medieval and modern); it was possible to identify a number of phases within the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The excavation results have been summarised as follows (absent periods have also been included to assist continuity of description).

Period 1: Mesolithic

Period 2: Neolithic

Period 3: Early Bronze Age (absent)

Period 4: Middle to late Bronze Age

Period 5: Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

Period 6: Middle to Late Iron Age (Phases I–III)

Period 7: Early Romano-British (Phases I–V)

Period 8: Later Romano-British (absent)

Period 9: Anglo-Saxon (absent)

Period 10: Medieval (12th to 14th century)

Period 11: Post 14th century to Modern

THE NATURAL DEPOSIT

The natural deposit, consisting of yellowish-brown brickearth, was identified across the full area of the site. The brickearth deposits were located at 11.95m OD in the northwest to 9.75m OD in the

northeast corner of the site. A localised high point was recognised in the southern central area of site at 10.25m OD. No signs of significant truncation were evident.

PERIOD 1: THE MESOLITHIC (10,000–4000 BC)

The earliest activity recorded on site was that associated with the Mesolithic period, mainly associated with a small assemblage of flintwork. The only cultural material recovered from the fill of northwest–southeast aligned ditch F861, adjacent to the northern limit of excavation, was a small multi-platformed Mesolithic flake core. The form of feature F861 suggests that the presence of the flint core is residual, the ditch deriving from a later phase of activity and possibly contemporary with the Mid to Late Bronze Age feature F1654 because of similarities in their alignment. Due to the lack of additional dating evidence, this interpretation cannot be confirmed.

The remaining evidence for this period derives from the Mesolithic flintwork assemblage, which consists of approximately 10% of both the evaluation and excavation flintwork assemblages as a whole. The assemblages contain multiple forms including several cores, a small end scraper, bladelets and a broken microlith, which were all recovered from later contexts (Fig. 4: 1–6).

PERIOD 2: THE NEOLITHIC FEATURES (4000–2500 BC)

Neolithic activity was represented by two feature groups. Shallow curvilinear gully [874], approximately 4.5m in length, was located in the southeast area of the site. A small group of Early Neolithic Plain Bowl pottery was recovered from the fill; some of this pottery was disturbed, and as a result was residual in the fill of a later ditch which truncated gully [874].

In the western area of the site a group of four small pits [1597], [1599], [1601] and [1603], measuring between 0.5m and 0.75m wide, were identified. The four pits were assigned to this period due to the presence of the butt end of a polished flint axehead recovered from one of the pit fills during the evaluation (Fig 4: 7). No additional dating evidence was recovered during the excavation. A second fragment of Neolithic polished flint axehead was recovered during the evaluation, although this fragment derived from a disturbed subsoil context.

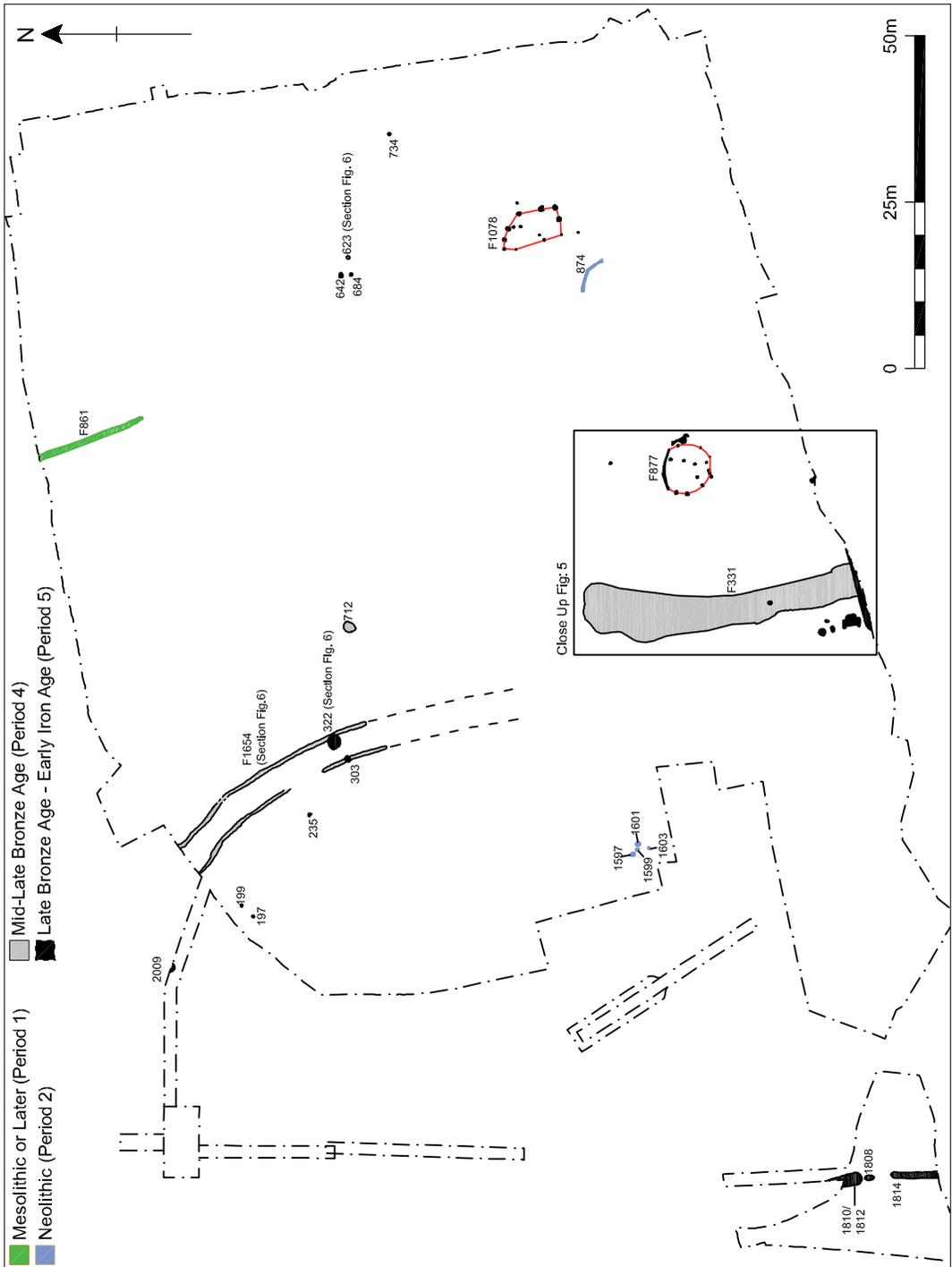


Fig. 3. Period 1, 2, 4 and 5 features.

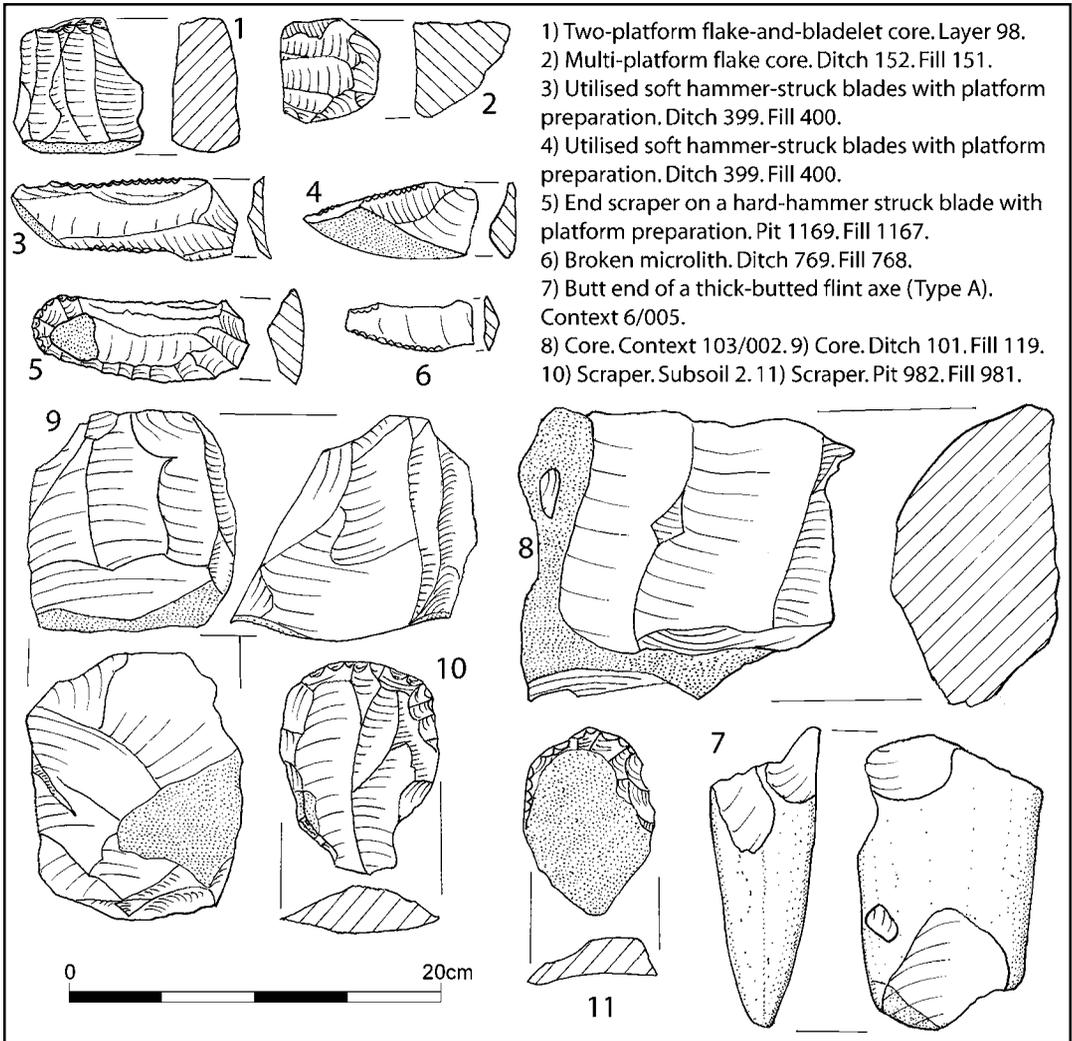


Fig 4. Worked flint.

PERIOD 4: THE MID TO LATE BRONZE AGE FEATURES (1500–800 BC)

Evidence for activity during the Bronze Age was identified during the course of the excavation, relating solely to the Mid to Late Bronze Age period. No evidence relating to the Early Bronze Age was identified, which is consistent with the poor archaeological visibility associated with this period in this region.

The Mid to Late Bronze Age is represented by a greater number of features than previously observed on site, consisting of a range of pits and ditches. Five pits [197], [199], [235], [623] and [712]

associated with this period are widely distributed across the northern half of the site (Fig. 3). Pits [197], [199] and [235] were all of a similar character, measuring up to 0.5m in diameter by 0.2m deep. Pit [712] was the largest recorded, measuring 2m by 1.5m in plan. The similarity between all four pits was that each fill demonstrated signs of burning and contained quantities of charcoal and fire-cracked flint, perhaps indicating burning *in situ* in the form of fire pits. Analysis of the charcoal from pit [199] demonstrated that the charcoal derived mainly from a single wood type, oak, evidence of fuel wood selection. Pit [624] was located further

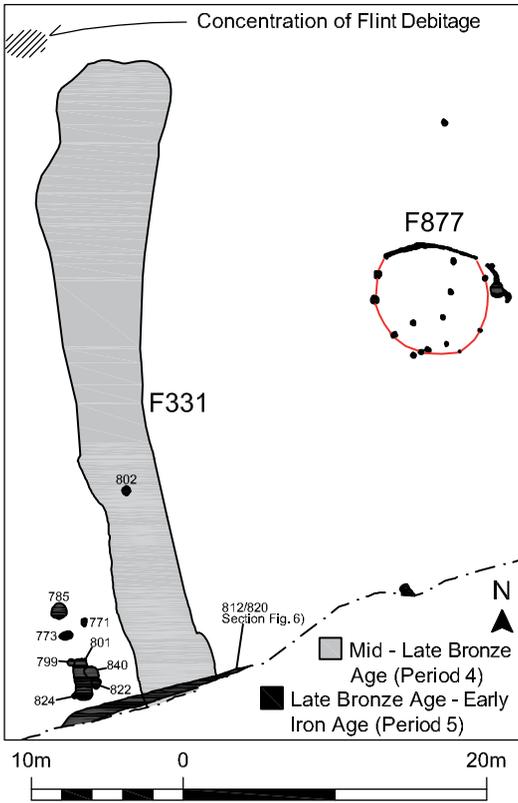


Fig 5. Detail of Period 4 and 5 features.

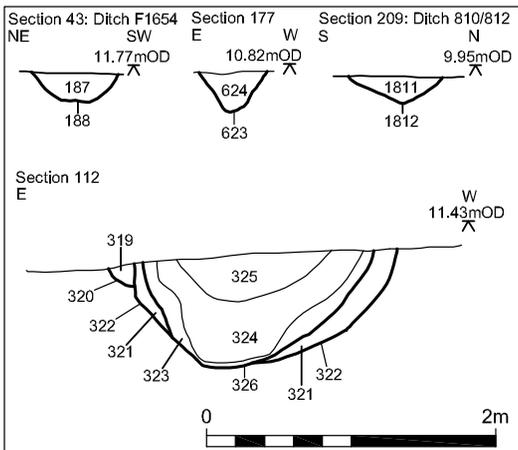


Fig. 6. Period 5 sections.

to the east (Fig. 3), and distinct from the other pits in its well-defined concave profile (Fig. 6). The fill of pit [624] contained a comparatively large assemblage of pottery, closely dated to 1100–900 BC, which contained a small number of partially complete vessels including shouldered jars and bowls, and larger than average-sized sherds suggest that the pottery fragments were deposited directly into the pit (Fig. 7: 1–5). A small quantity of other domestic waste was recovered from the fill, including an undiagnostic strip of iron. The iron fragment is believed to be intrusive, because of its small size and the frequency of intrusive material recorded elsewhere on site. Evidence of cereals, including emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), possible barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wild or cultivated oat (*Avena* sp.) was recovered from the fill. Deposition of this material may have occurred as a single-phase disposal of domestic waste. The five pits are spread extensively across the site, but are limited in number, creating a picture of dispersed activity.

North–south aligned linear F331 was identified adjacent to the southern limit of excavation (Figs 3 and 5). The silty homogeneous fills of linear F331 appear to have been deposited gradually over time, and contain only a limited assemblage of finds. The characteristics of this feature suggest that it may have been part of a transit route, used frequently enough to form a hollow way. In the northern side of the site, F1654 lay on the projected alignment of the course of suspected hollow way F331 (Fig. 3). The feature consists of two parallel sections of curvilinear ditch separated by a distance of 3.5m. The ditches themselves were small, measuring up to 0.8m wide, with a gradual concave profile (Fig. 6). The eastern of the two ditches was a single continuous length of ditch, whereas the western ditch had a break in length two thirds the way along. Occasional fragments of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the ditch fills. These ditches are thought to represent a trackway, and together F331 and F1654 appear to represent a single transit route running approximately north to south across the full width of the site.

PERIOD 5: THE LATE BRONZE AGE TO EARLY IRON AGE FEATURES (800–400 BC) (Figs 3 and 5)

The features dating to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age indicate a transition in the type of activity occurring at the site; there is more evidence for activity of a domestic nature.

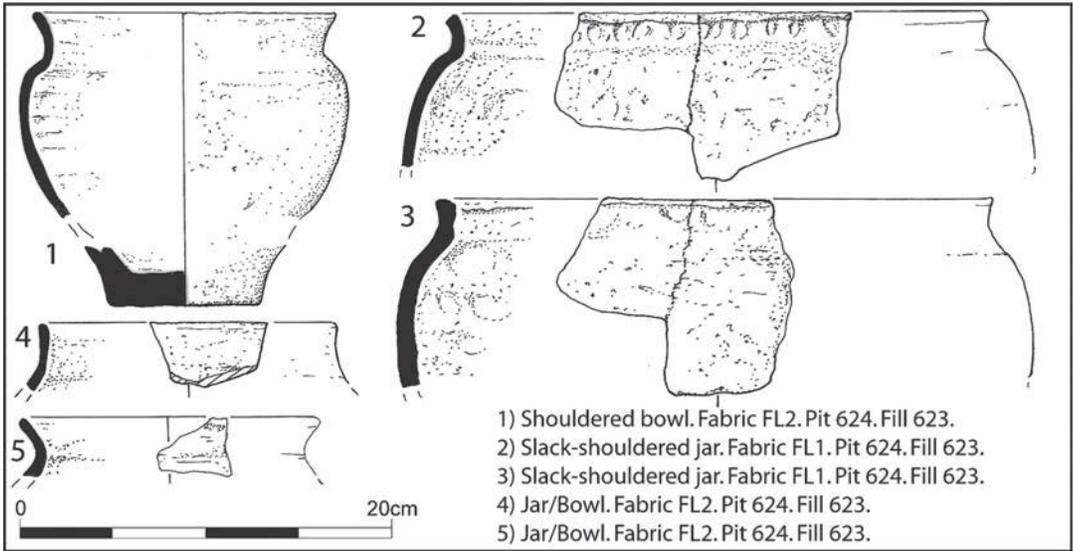


Fig. 7. Pottery assemblage from pit [624].

The main feature associated with this period is a roundhouse structure, F877, on the southern side of the site measuring c. 8m in diameter (Fig. 3). The structure consisted of 14 post-holes with two shallow gullies on the north and northeast sides, irregularly spaced. Seven of the post-holes were located internally, with a small group positioned to the southwest side of the structure, possibly indicating the location of an entrance. All the post-holes measured between 0.2m and 0.5m in diameter, up to a depth of 0.3m, suggesting that it may have been a substantial structure. Pottery from two of the central post-holes provides a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date for the structure; one of the post-holes contains a partially complete bowl. In addition, several of the fills from the other post-holes produced large quantities of daub, elements of a large daub structure and a possible oven or kiln (Fig. 8: 1). Fragments from a triangular loom weight and a sharpening or polishing stone were also discovered, suggesting that weaving and maintenance of metal tools were taking place in association with the roundhouse.

To the east of F877, a group of 14 post-holes formed a loosely sub-rectangular shape forming feature F1078 (Fig. 3). The post-holes were up to 0.65m in diameter, and up to 0.2m deep, indicating that the posts were not inserted to a depth equivalent to that in the construction of roundhouse F877. The character of the structure

indicates that it was more likely to be a simple construction such as a livestock pen than a structure for human habitation. Structure F1078 is tentatively dated to Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age because only a small number of pottery sherds from this period were recovered.

Other features, peripheral to the two structures, were identified and appear to be broadly contemporary. One group of features was adjacent to the southern boundary of the site, and included a shallow ditch [812]/[820] with 11 associated pits and isolated post-holes (Fig. 5). The ditch was aligned east-west and was in a position which truncated the route of the earlier hollow way (Fig. 5). The pit group was focused on a sequence of shallow intercutting pits, the largest of which was sub-rectangular and measured 2.7m by 0.9m in plan. Further quantities of pottery from this period were recovered from the fills of the pits and post-holes, in addition to a fragment of a Lower Greensand quern stone. Fragments of daub were also collected from several of the features, one pit containing a large assemblage of 347 amorphous fragments, supporting the interpretation that daub structures, such as roundhouses or smaller oven structures, were present in the vicinity.

A further ditch alignment was identified in the southwest corner of the site. The earliest element of the alignment was the terminus of a large north-south U-shaped ditch [1810]/[1812] (Fig. 3). Cut

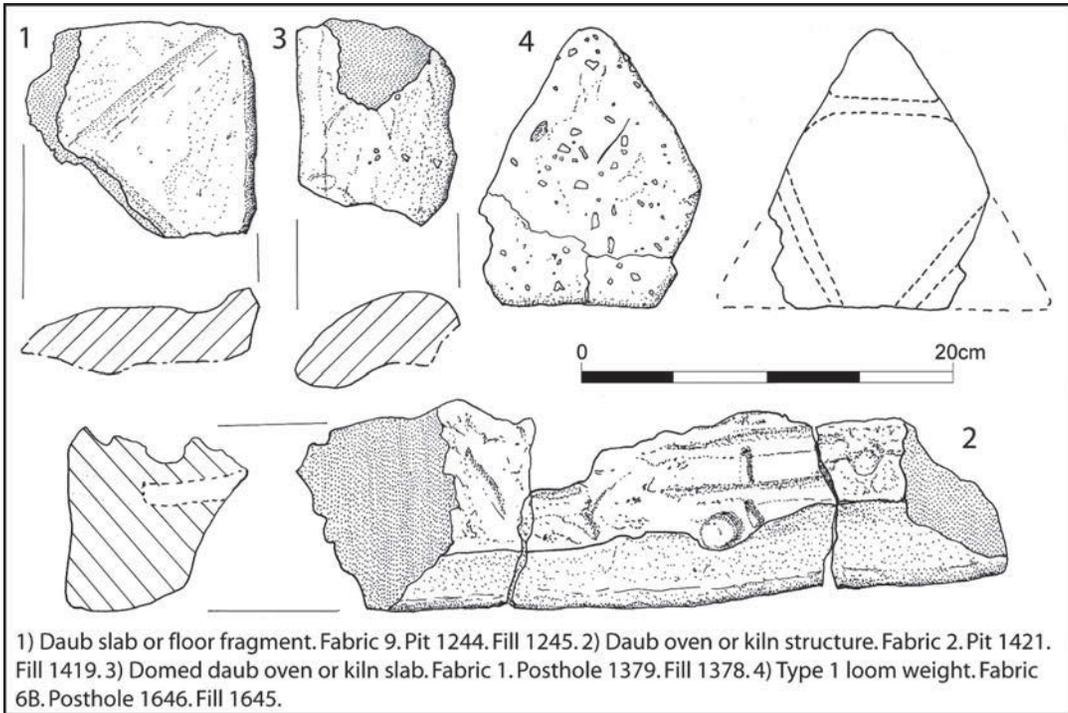


Fig. 8. Daub and loom weights.

into the surface of the ditch, following the same alignment, was a smaller, later ditch terminal with a more concave profile. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the fill of the later ditch terminal, comprising several flint flakes and a few fragments of possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery. A third ditch terminal [1814], with dimensions similar to those of the later ditch and following the same overall alignment, was recorded on the southern side of the area. This third ditch appears to form part of the same boundary alignment as the later ditch to the north, pre-dated by a shorter, larger, boundary ditch. A wide shallow pit [1808] of the same date, containing a small assemblage of finds, was located between the two sets of terminals.

The remaining features associated with this period consist of seven isolated pits distributed across the full extent of the site, from which only a limited assemblage of finds were recovered from their fills. Two of the pits truncated the southern end of earlier trackway F1654 (Fig. 3). The larger of these two pits [322] contained several fills which had the characteristics of water-lain deposits

(Fig. 3). After a period of use the pit had been re-cut and artificially flint-lined [326] before further infilling took place. The sequence of deposits observed suggests that this pit was used as a shallow waterhole which, having silted up, was re-cut to extend its period of use.

The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery assemblage recovered during the course of the excavation was of substantial size, forming over half of the prehistoric assemblage (Fig. 9). Interpretation of the assemblage was hampered by the fact that some fabric types remained common right through the later prehistoric period. Most of the assemblage belonged to the post-Deverel Rimbury tradition, dominated by jar forms, with bowl forms less prevalent (Fig. 9: 6–17). Features of interest in the assemblage are a possible example of continentally influenced *assiette tronconique* (Fig. 9: 17), and deliberate fingernail and fingertip decoration (Fig. 9: 10 and 16). Early Iron Age tripartite forms are also present (Fig. 9: 13 and 14). Several partial complete vessels were recovered, most notably one almost intact bowl recovered from the eastern area of the site

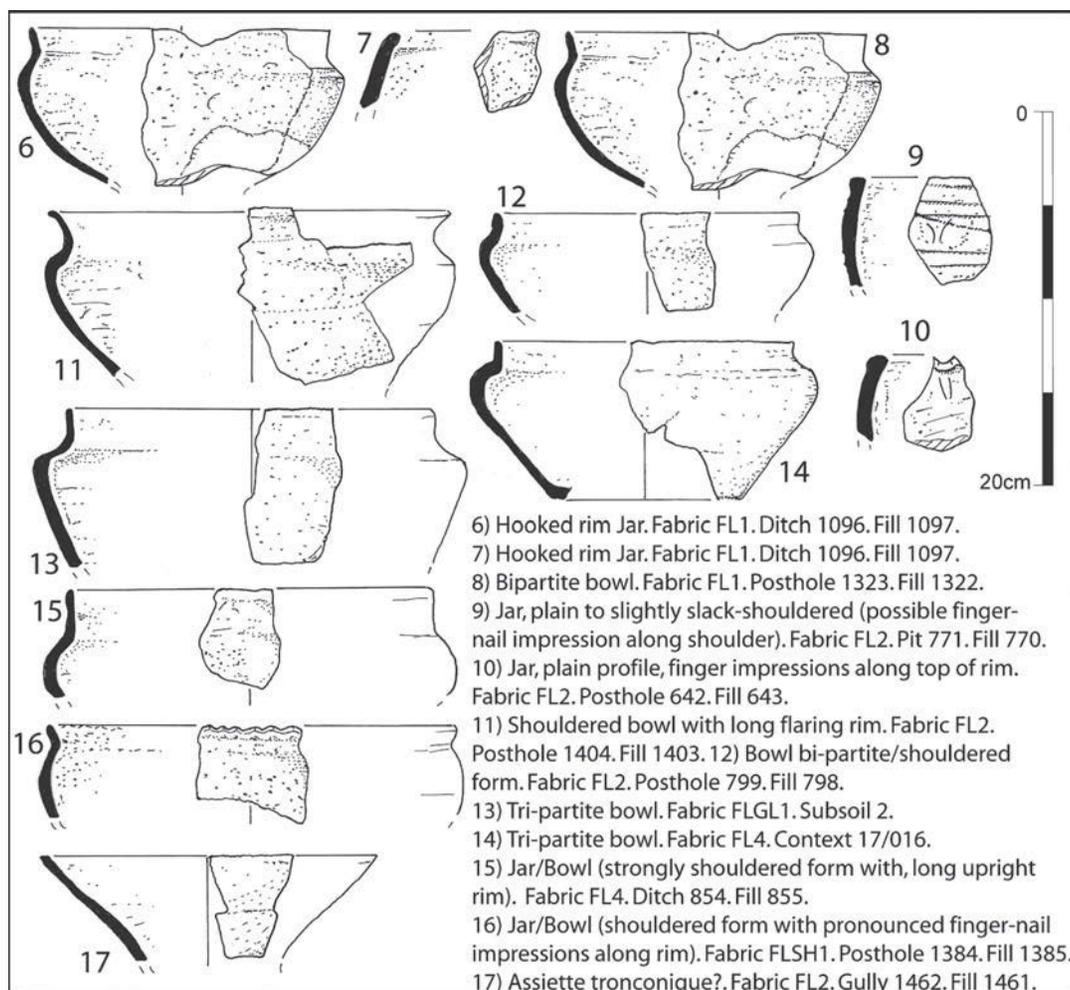


Fig. 9. Period 5 pottery.

during the evaluation, although, because of the concentration of features in this area, the feature it was recovered from could not be identified during the evaluation.

The flintwork assemblage was proportionally smaller, consisting mainly of cores (Fig. 4: 8 and 9), flakes, fragments and shattered pieces. Only a limited number of tools were recovered, consisting entirely of a small number of scrapers (Fig. 4: 10 and 11). The highest concentration of worked flint was identified during the evaluation in the central area of the site, in the vicinity of roundhouse F877 (Fig. 5). The concentration consisted of 30 pieces of unabraded debitage,

deriving from the same nodule, the waste from a single knapping episode.

Environmental samples taken during the evaluation associated with the almost intact bowl recovered in the eastern area of the site showed a range of species similar to those identified during the Mid to Late Bronze Age period, consisting of emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), possible barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wild or cultivated oat (*Avena* sp.). In this case, though, they may represent a deliberately 'placed' deposit, rather than accidental inclusion, but do provide some evidence for the cultivation of crops during this period, within proximity of the site.

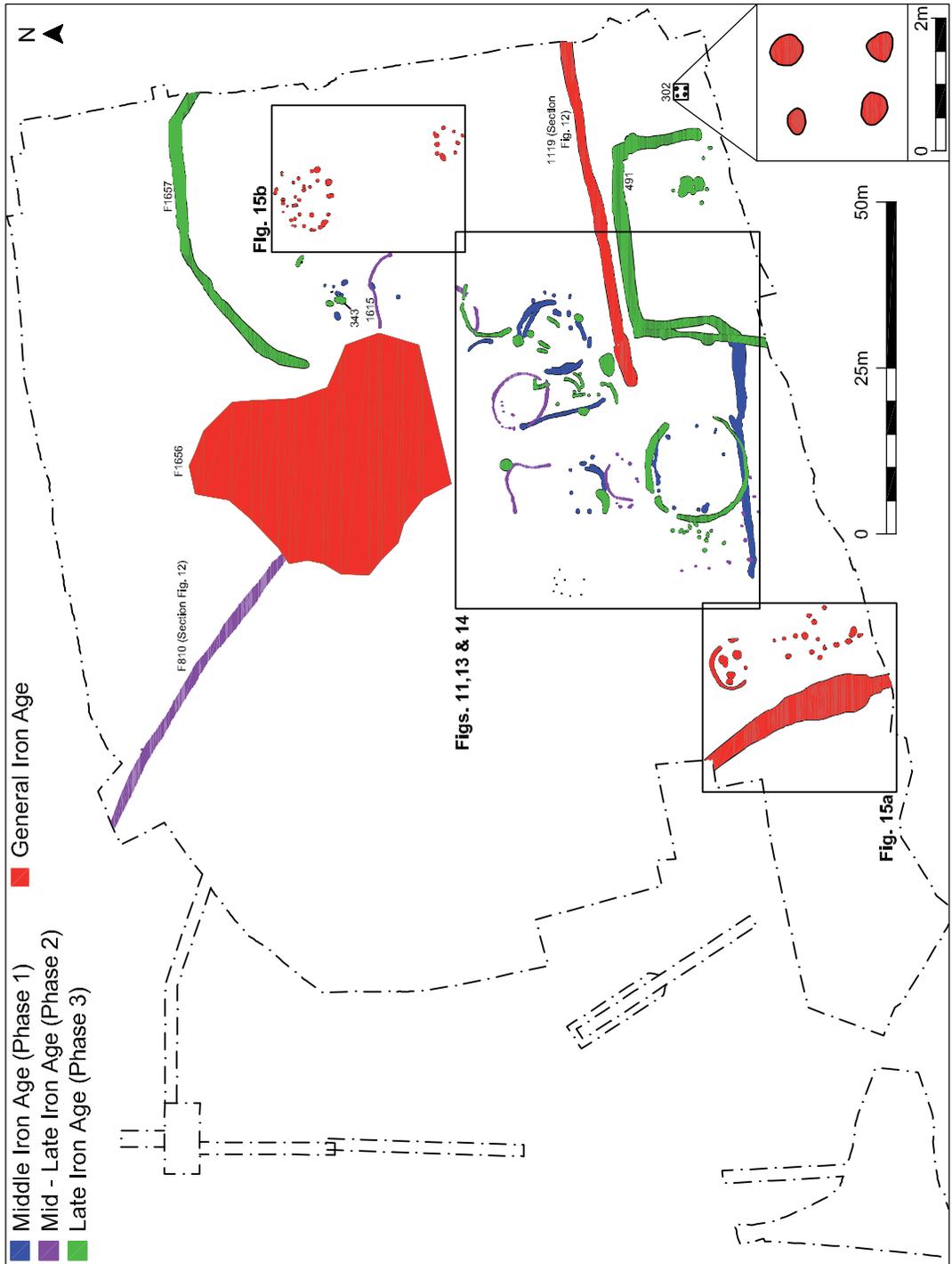


Fig. 10. Overview of Period 6 features.

PERIOD 6: THE MID TO LATE IRON AGE
(400 BC-AD 43) (Fig. 10)

Activity associated with the Mid to Late Iron Age period made up the largest number of features from any period, concentrated mainly in the south and west of the site and representing a diverse range of activities. Three main phases of activity have been identified in this period (Phases I-III), but several features could not be confidently assigned to one of these three specific phases and so have been assigned only generally to this period.

The Middle Iron Age features (Phase I) (Figs 10 and 11)
The central focus of activity in this phase appears to be based on three, or possibly four, roundhouse structures in the south central area of the site. The most substantial of these structures is roundhouse F1079, which is an interrupted annular feature measuring approximately 10m in diameter

(Fig. 11). This sequence of features making up the roundhouse indicates that it may have been rebuilt or repaired during the life-time of the structure. The original construction consisted mainly of three sections of ring gully. The first phase of rebuilding also incorporated additional sections of ring gully of a similar size. The second phase of rebuilding appears to use post-holes, rather than ring gullies, which truncate earlier phases of the structure. Due to the multiple phases of the structure, it is uncertain where the doorway for each phase was located. Pottery recovered from the roundhouse was identified as either later prehistoric or Mid to Late Iron Age, although pottery associated with the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age was recovered from one of the gullies, indicating that the roundhouse may have been constructed initially at a period of transition when fabrics of this earlier type were being phased out. Two partially complete

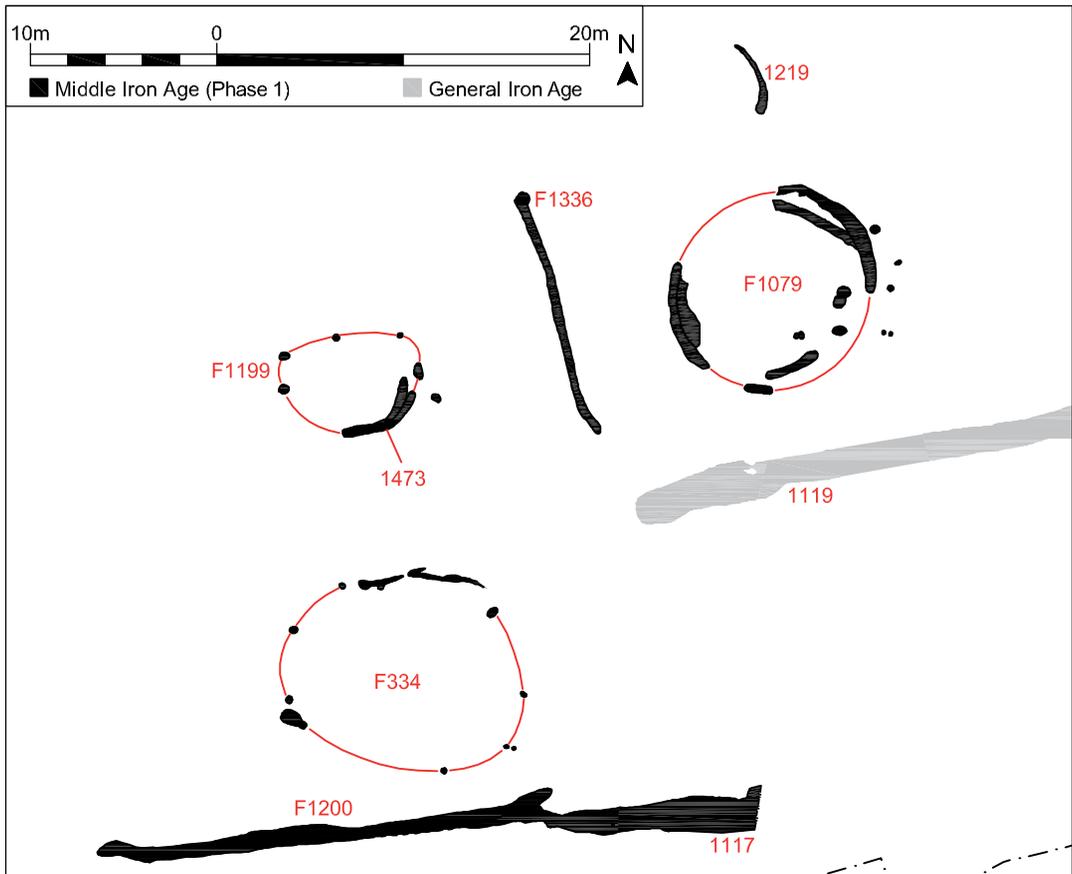


Fig. 11. Detail of Period 6 (Phase I) features.

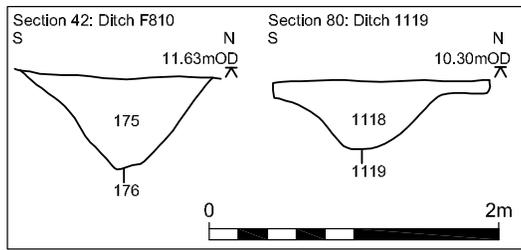


Fig. 12. Period 6 Sections.

Mid to Late Iron Age vessels were recovered from gully terminal [851], and appear to be a 'placed' deposit.

Lying to the southwest of roundhouse F1079 was roundhouse F334, represented by a series of post-holes and partial ring gullies, approximately 10m in diameter (Fig. 11). The main group of post-holes were identified in the southern half of the structure, with only a limited number in the north. No entrance to the structure was identifiable.

A third structure, roundhouse F1199, was located in the area between roundhouses F1079 and F334. Roundhouse F1199 was oval in shape and measured c. 8m by 5m (Fig. 11). The structure comprised a single ring gully forming the south-eastern limit of the structure, five additional post-holes forming the remainder of the structure's footprint. Evidence of rebuilding is demonstrated by a second, later, ring gully. Again, no entrance to the structure was identified.

A fourth possible structure was represented by ring gully [1219] (Fig. 11). This is a tentative interpretation, as no further structural evidence was recorded associated with the ring gully.

Associated with the roundhouses were several short lengths of linear ditch (Fig. 11). Two intercutting sections of ditch [1117] and F1336 were observed to the south of the roundhouses on an east-west alignment for a distance of approximately 30m. A third ditch, F1336, was roughly equidistant between roundhouses F1079 and F1199, on a north-south alignment. Pottery dated to the general later prehistoric was found in the fill of the ditch.

To the south of roundhouse F1079 was east-west ditch [1119] (Figs 11 and 12). The position of the ditch indicates that it may also belong to this phase, although stratigraphical and dating evidence can only support its association with the Mid to Late Iron Age period in general.

A cluster of small pits, including pit [343], to the northeast of the roundhouses were also tentatively associated with this phase of activity (Fig. 10). The pits measured up to 1m in diameter. A limited finds assemblage was collected from their fills, consisting of a small quantity of daub, fire-cracked flint and later prehistoric pottery. The only artefact of particular interest recovered was a Type 1 clay loom weight (Fig. 8: 4).

The Middle to Late Iron Age features (Phase II) (Figs 10 and 13)

The features in Phase II appear to show a gradual development of the prehistoric settlement and the landscape in the immediate vicinity. Three additional roundhouses are assigned to this phase, all of which are adjacent to the roundhouses in the previous phase. The largest roundhouse, F1363, had a well-defined penannular shape, measuring approximately 9m in diameter, its circumference consisting of a combination of two ring gullies and post-holes (Fig. 13). It is likely that the entrance lay in the gap in the ditch, to the southeast. Mid to Late Iron Age pottery was collected from the fills of both ring gullies.

Adjacent to this structure was roundhouse F1364. The original construction of the roundhouse is represented by a semi-circular ring gully. The gully is later superseded by the rebuilding of the same structure based on an oval arrangement of nine posts (Fig. 13).

On the northeast side of the roundhouse group, a third possible roundhouse [927]/[934] was identified (Fig. 13). The possible structure consisted of a single section of ring gully forming a semi-circle which had been truncated by later activity. The fill produced small quantities of Mid to Late Iron Age pottery.

Close to the southern boundary of the site, a series of 13 post-holes represented feature F1080, which appears to respect earlier ditch F1200 (Fig. 13). It is thought that the alignment represents part of a fence line erected to replace the boundary previously represented by the earlier ditch.

The only linear ditch feature observed in this phase is northwest-southeast aligned ditch F810 in the northern half of the site (Fig. 10). The ditch was up to 1.8m wide with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The ditch had a steep concave profile (Fig. 12) and the southeast limit of the ditch ran into the central area of the site where extensive feature F1656 was located. The levels taken at intervals along the

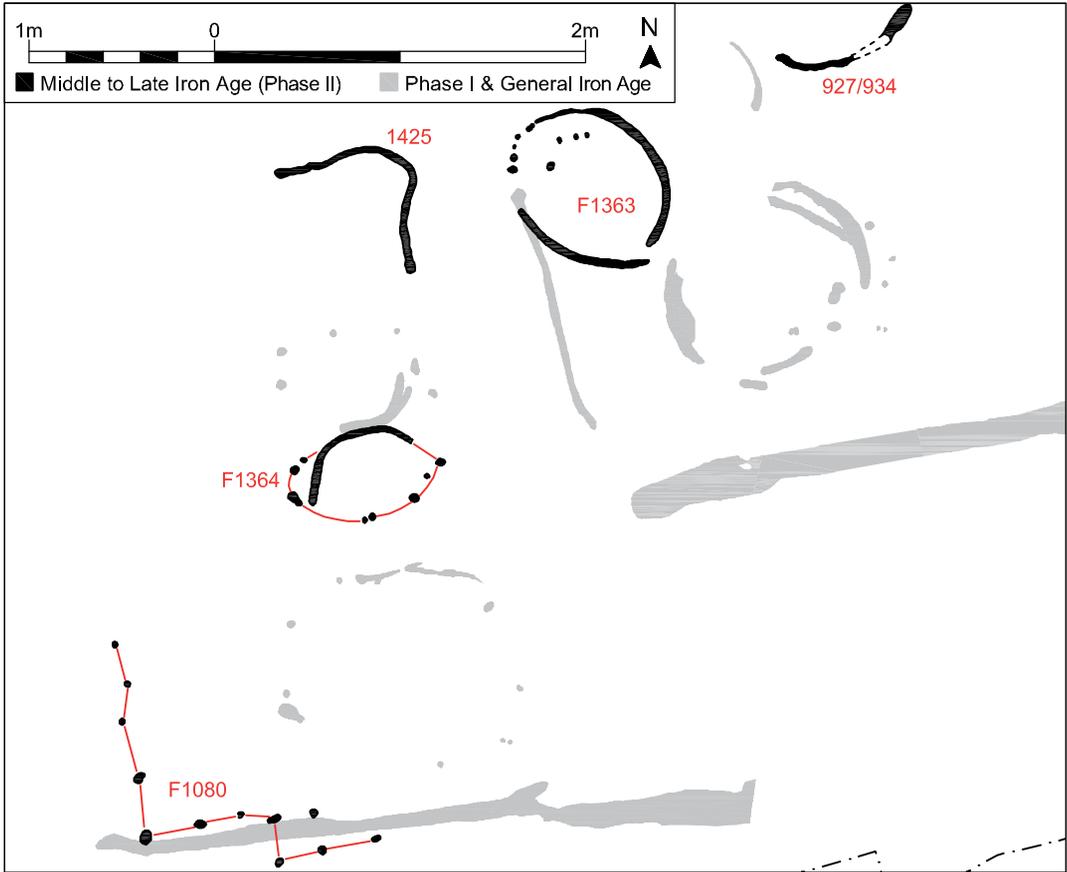


Fig. 13. Detail of Period 6 (Phase II) features.

base of the ditch indicate that it would have been draining to the southeast towards feature F1656. Feature F1656 is interpreted as a large artificial pond created immediately to the north of the Mid to Late Iron Age settlement. The pond had an irregular-shaped boundary, the full extent of the pond measuring 40m north–south by 35m east–west, to a maximum depth of 1.1m. It is uncertain whether the pond was cut into the land surface or was the exploitation of a large natural hollow; most probably a combination of both occurred. Environmental analysis of the deposits show that they were water-lain, associated with the input of a high degree of sediment over a short period of time due to the lack of organic inclusions. This would be characteristic use of the pond for water storage.

Also assigned to this phase are two curvilinear gully features [1425] and [1615], both of which are of the same approximate size (Figs 10 and 13). Mid

to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of both features. The purpose of both gullies is uncertain, but may be linked to the presence of pond F1656, possibly as drinking troughs for livestock.

The Late Iron Age Features (Phase III) (Figs 10 and 14)

The scale and impact of the Iron Age settlement increase in the third phase; settlement activity in the central area of the site increases in a more substantial way. The most significant feature is the substantial circular ring ditch F333 in the southern central area of the site, which measured 15m in diameter, consisting of three separate curved ditch sections of varying length (Fig. 14). The breaks in the ring ditch on the northwest side are thought to be deliberate, measuring 1.5m wide, whereas the large break on the east side is due to later truncation. The location of the

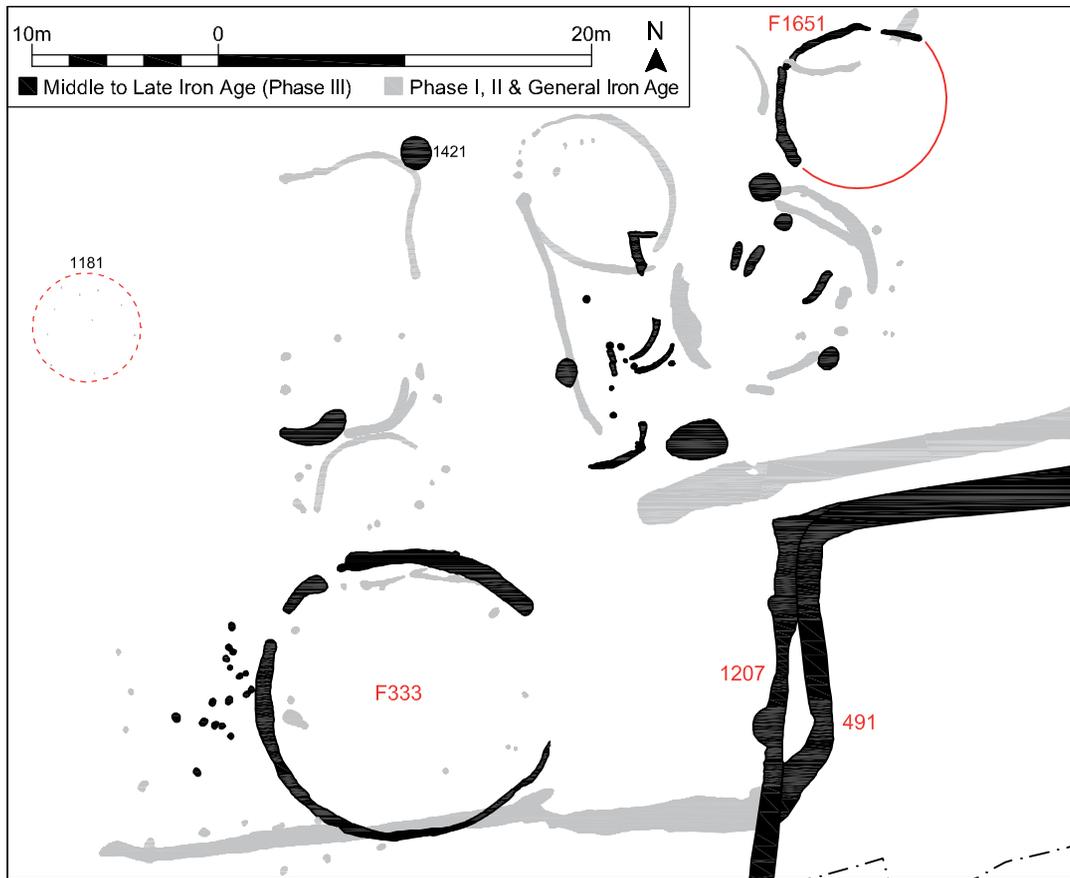


Fig. 14. Detail of Period 6 (Phase III) features.

entrance is unknown, but it is likely to relate to one of the gaps in the ditch sections. The curved ditch had a U-shaped profile with uniform fills, and the pottery collected was dominated by Mid to Late Iron Age forms. It is likely that ring ditch F333 represents a roundhouse of substantial size. Unfortunately, due to the activity in the interior of the structure associated with earlier periods of activity, it is not possible to identify any internal features that might be associated with structure F333. A group of 17 post-holes immediately to the western exterior of roundhouse F333 are thought to represent a temporary structure or small livestock pen associated with the roundhouse.

An additional roundhouse, F1651, was also assigned to this phase. The roundhouse was simple in its composition, consisting of three sections of ring gully forming a semi-circle, with an approximate diameter of 10m (Fig. 14). The fills

from each gully produced small quantities of Mid to Late Iron Age pottery.

It appears that activity continued to take place in the central area between the two roundhouses. Seven large rubbish pits have been identified in this area, all of which are either circular or oval in plan (Fig. 14). Several of the pits had multiple fills representing gradual deposition of waste material including possible hearth debris. One of the pits contained an assemblage consisting of part of a daub kiln or oven (Fig. 8: 2), as well as kiln lining and iron slag fragments representing the waste from industrial processes taking place on site, including possible iron smithing. Three further pits of a similar nature were identified to the northeast. The fill of one of these pits contained fragments of two triangular loom weights made of fired clay. All pits contained pottery dating to the Mid to Late Iron Age. Environmental analysis of the pit fills

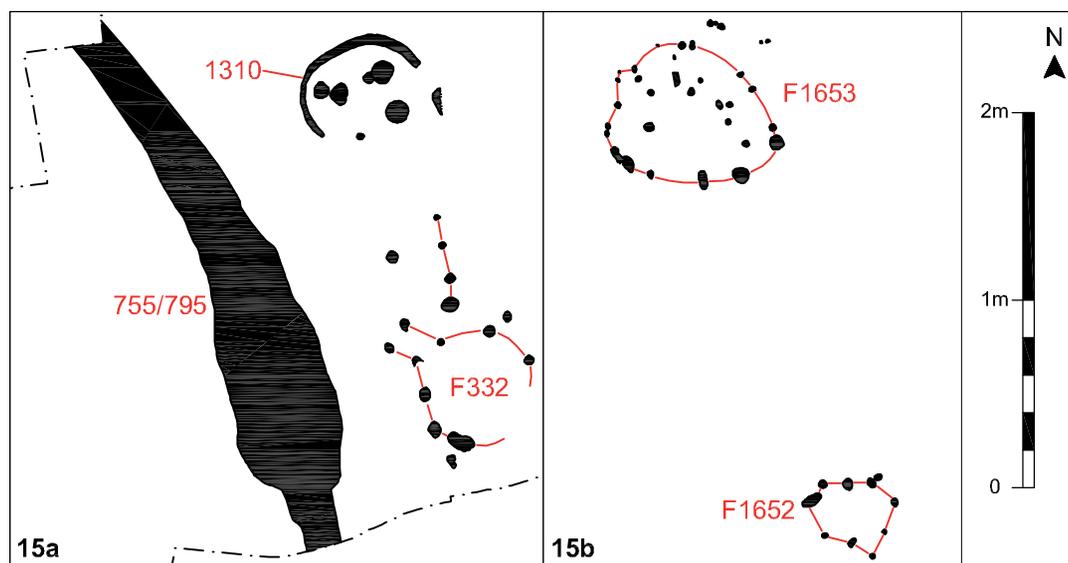


Fig. 15. Detail of general Period 6 features plan.

identified macrobotanical remains characteristic of processed cereal grains. The cereal assemblage included emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicocum/spelta*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and occasional oat/chess grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.).

Associated with the central rubbish pits were a range of smaller features, consisting of short gullies and a scatter of post-holes. These features could relate to smaller utilitarian structures associated with the settlement.

Efforts to enclose areas of land in the Late Iron Age, for the purposes of agriculture or the control of livestock, are represented by substantial ditch [491], which demarcates an area of 28m by over 14m (Fig. 10). After completion of ditch [491] it is likely that a decision was made to realign the course of the enclosure's western section, as a new ditch [1207] was cut. Mid to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of both ditches. Limited activity associated with this period was identified in the interior of the enclosure and consisted of a small group of pits and post-holes. The pits were broad and shallow, containing limited assemblages. The function of the post-holes is unclear, but they may represent temporary internal fence lines dividing the space within the enclosure.

Activity in the northern half of the site was represented by ditch F1657 (Fig. 10). The ditch had a sequence of at least five episodes of re-cutting,

altering the course and size of the ditch slightly each time, although on average the ditch would have been approximately 1.5m wide by 0.5m deep. Analysis of the levels from the base of each re-cut indicates that the ditch had a shallow gradient travelling from east to west, indicating that it may have replaced ditch F810 in feeding a fresh supply of water to maintain artificial pond F1656.

The general Mid to Late Iron Age features

(Figs 10 and 15)

Due to the lack of stratigraphic or spatial relationships available, it was not possible to assign certain features to one specific phase of activity in the Mid to Late Iron Age period.

Ditch [755]/[795] was located in the south-western portion of the site and was substantially wider than other contemporary ditches (Fig. 15a). The location of the ditch suggests that it was probably the western boundary at some point during Mid to Late Iron Age activity on site.

The largest structural feature associated with this period is possible roundhouse F332, adjacent to ditch [755]/[795]. Roundhouse F332 is formed of 18 post-holes which form a roughly circular structure approximately 7m in diameter, with a possible porch on the northwest side of the structure (Fig. 15a). A short fence line may have been attached to the northern side of the structure.

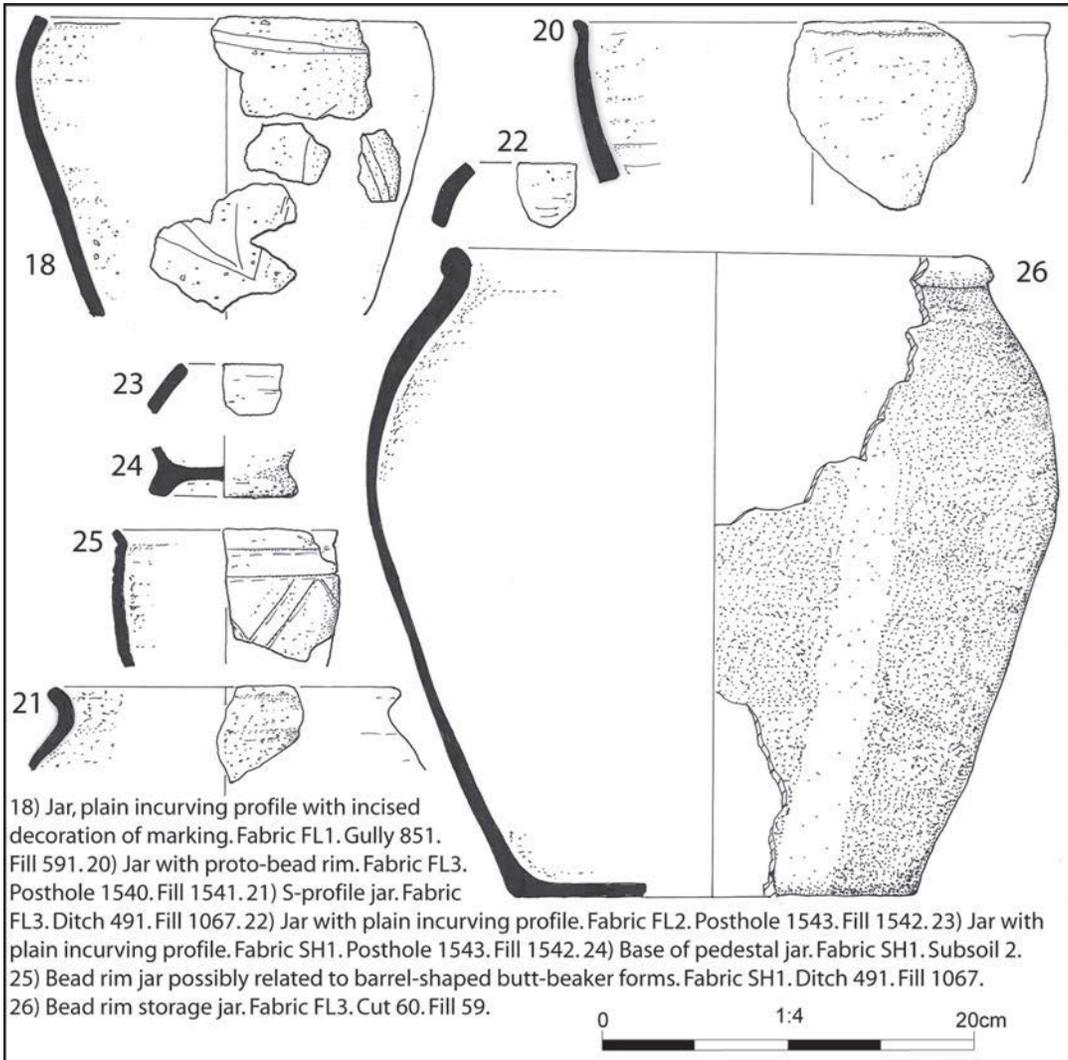


Fig. 16. Period 6 pottery.

Directly to the north of roundhouse F332, semicircular gully [1310] was associated with seven primarily circular pits (Fig. 15a). Only a small assemblage of finds was collected from these pits. Gully [1310] had apparently been cut in order to define a space, but the nature of that space is uncertain.

In the eastern area of the site two groups of post-holes, F1652 and F1653, have been identified, containing an arrangement of 13 and 22 post-holes respectively. It is believed that each arrangement may represent a structure such as a livestock pen (Fig. 15b).

A possible four-post structure [302] has been identified in the southeast corner of the site measuring approximately 1m by 1m in plan (Fig. 10).

In the central area of the site a group of nine stake-holes F1181 was observed. The stake-holes were in a circular pattern, approximately 4.5m in diameter, with a tenth stake-hole centrally located (Fig. 14). Stake-hole group F1181 appears to represent the remains of a temporary structure. Unfortunately, no finds were recovered from the stake-holes to assist in dating the feature, although it is thought to be of prehistoric origin.

In general, the finds assemblage from this period was fairly diverse. The pottery assemblage continued to contain high levels of flint-tempered fabrics, in association with small quantities of a diverse range of other fabrics. Multiple forms were identified, represented primarily by jar forms (Fig. 16: 18–26), although certain forms typically expected of this period, such as decorated Saucepan pot wares, were not present. The largest assemblage of daub derived from Mid to Late Iron Age features, representative of the increased number of structures on the site. The quantity of animal bone recovered was limited due to the adverse soil conditions. Those elements that did survive indicate the presence of domestic species such as cattle and sheep, as well as horse.

The features represented in the Middle to Late Iron Age demonstrate a substantial increase over earlier periods in the size and intensity of activity taking place. Strong continuity in the use of the site for settlement is evident.

PERIOD 7: THE EARLY ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD (EARLY 1ST TO MID 2ND CENTURY) (Fig. 17)

Activity on site continued into the Early Romano-British period, albeit with a less intense character than that previously identified in the Mid to Late Iron Age. The activity represents a change in focus represented by a move from settlement to agricultural use of the land. Analysis of the excavation results has identified four separate phases of activity between the early 1st century AD and the mid 2nd century AD (Phases I–IV).

The Early to Mid 1st Century AD features (Phase I) (Fig. 17)

The activity associated with the immediate post-Conquest period is believed to represent direct continuation of the activity from the Late Iron Age. Those features assigned to this phase appear to be located mainly adjacent to artificial pond F1656. By the early 1st century AD pond F1656 is still present on the site, but now associated with a different series of ditches. The first element of this series was ditches [544]/[546] and [552]/[560], which were subsequently truncated by ditch F361 (Fig. 17). Ditches [544]/[546] and [552]/[560] are probably part of the first drainage system before revision led to the construction of ditch F361. The western terminal of ditch F361 appeared to truncate the primary fill deposit of the pond. Analysis of the levels from the base of the ditch

suggests that it may have drained water away from pond F1656. The character of ditch F361 and preceding ditches [544]/[546] and [552]/[560] was similar, as all three ditches measured between 0.7m and 1.25m wide. They all contained homogeneous fills that appeared to have silted up gradually. Finds retrieval from the fills was limited, restricted to a small assemblage of early Roman pottery.

There is evidence of other activity at this time in proximity to the pond and drainage ditches, in the form of three large pits (not illustrated) which were partly obscured by the encroachment of later pond deposits. A few abraded sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved from their fills.

A large sub-square enclosure ditch F844 was located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, composed of three separate ditch segments creating two possible entrances, one on the western side of the enclosure and the other at the southwest corner (Fig. 17). Associated with the southwest entrance were two post-holes which may represent sockets for gate posts. The ditches enclosed an area of approximately 30m north–south, and over 20m east–west (Fig. 18). The finds assemblage consisted of a few sherds of pottery broadly dated to the Roman period, stratigraphic relationships placing the enclosure within this phase of activity.

The Mid to Late 1st Century AD features (Phase II) (Fig. 17)

The majority of the Romano-British features fall within this phase, consisting of a number of boundary ditches and large rubbish pits. North–south orientated ditch F85 is the longest of the ditches associated with this phase, at 85m in length (Figs 17 and 18). The single homogeneous fill (50) contained a moderate quantity of pottery sherds dating the ditch to the second half of the 1st century AD. Environmental analysis of the samples taken from the fill identified seeds which may have derived from crop-processing waste. Two additional ditches were recorded at the northern and southern ends of ditch F85, indicating possible continuation of the same boundary alignment, with the breaks between the ditches interpreted as access points through the ditch system.

Ditch [268] follows the same alignment as ditch F85; 10m of the ditch was present, extending beyond the southern part of the site (Fig. 17). Within the ditch was a sequence of seven tip deposits for disposal of domestic debris. Certain fills contained greater organic elements or

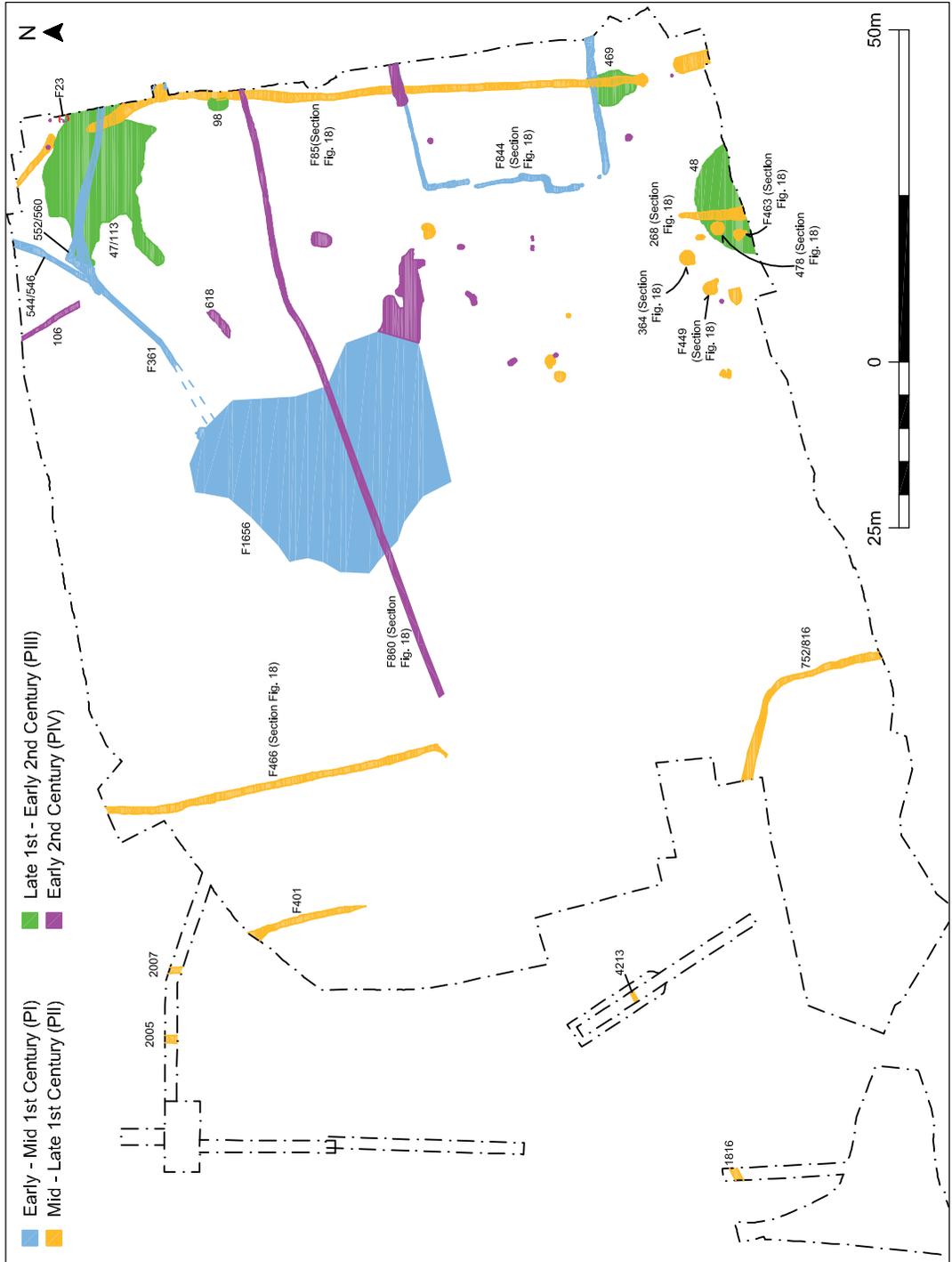


Fig. 17. Period 7 features.

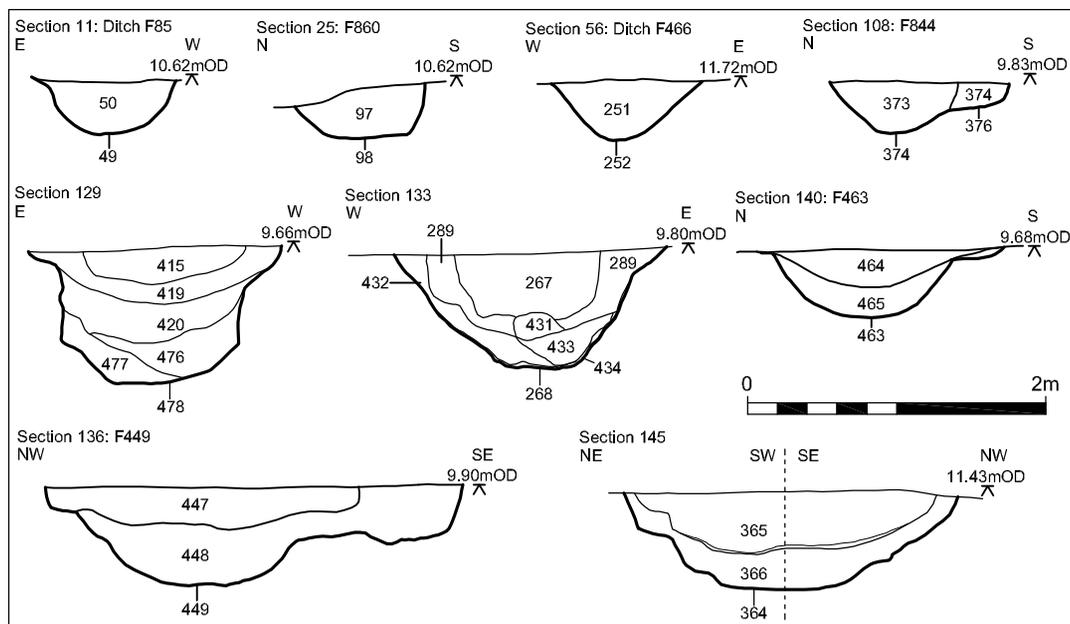


Fig. 18. Period 7 sections.

burning debris, and there was a clustered deposit of large flint nodules, interpreted as waste from construction or debris from field clearance.

Three other ditches F401, F466 and [752]/[816], are attributed to this phase because of their similarity in alignment and function to ditch F85 (Fig. 17). All three ditches were on the western side of the site, on a predominately north-south alignment (Fig. 18).

During the later phase of trenching, two north-south aligned ditches [2005] and [2007] were identified close to the northwest boundary of the site, and similar to the other mid to late 1st century AD ditches in the western area of the site. Both ditches are believed to be extensions of the same pattern of field boundaries. A third ditch alignment was identified during the additional trenching in the southwest corner of the site.

Thirteen pits, falling into three groups, were excavated in the southeast corner of the site (Fig. 17). The southern group was made up of circular or sub-circular pits, dominated by large pits measuring up to 2.9m in diameter. The size of these pits suggests that their initial function may have been as cess pits. These larger pits had a sequence of rubbish deposits similar to those identified in ditch [268], but with the addition of

substantial deposits of heated debris incorporating multiple small fragments of charcoal, burnt flint and daub (Fig. 18). The pits produced moderate-sized assemblages of mid to late 1st century pottery. The assemblage also includes fragments of *tesserae* and hypocaust flue tile, indicating the presence of a building of status nearby. A copper alloy fitting or handle was also recovered (Fig. 23: 2). In addition to the pottery, CBM and metalwork assemblages, several of the lower fills of these pits produced large fragments of bone, identified as mainly horse. The discovery of fragments of this size was unusual due to the poor preservation of bone identified across the rest of the site.

The pits in the central and northeast groups were mainly circular, and on the whole smaller than the southern group, measuring between 0.7m and 1.9m in diameter. The fills were more homogeneous and contained limited pottery assemblages, although fragments of rotary quern stone were recovered.

The Late 1st century AD to early 2nd century features (Phase III) (Fig. 17)

During the late 1st century and early 2nd century AD there appears to be a phase of disuse or abandonment of the site. The evidence for this

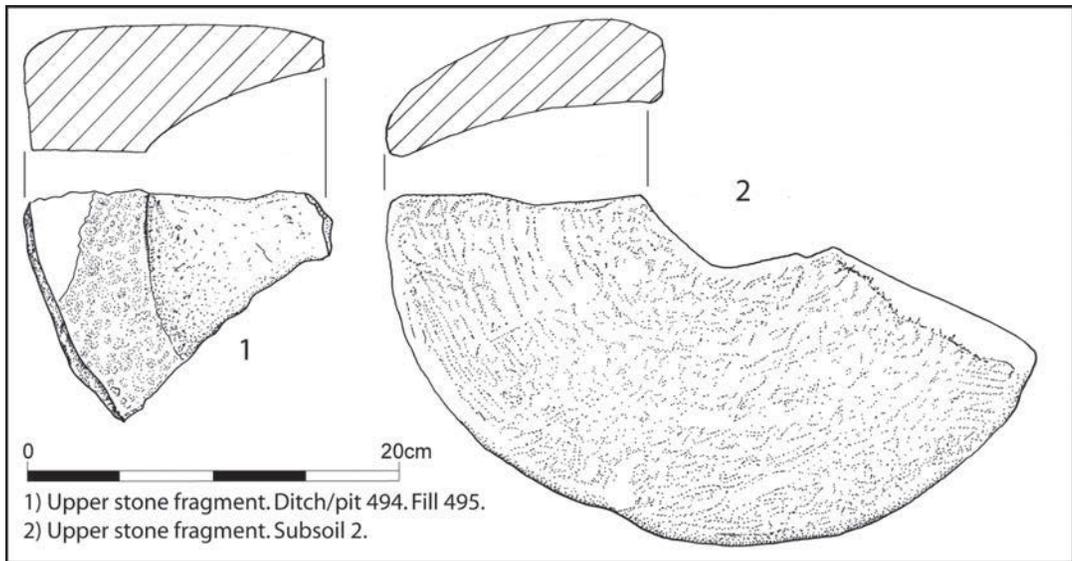


Fig. 19. Quern stones.

is in the form of multiple silty layers (47)/(113), (48), (98) and (469) forming in the eastern half of the site, all of which contain pottery suggesting a deposition date of between the late 1st century AD and the early 2nd century AD.

Layer (47)/(113) was the most substantial, forming in the northeast corner of the site, sealing the ditches from the earlier phases of Roman-British activity, and covering an area of approximately 30m east–west by 20m north–south. The remaining three areas were more isolated and restricted in their coverage. One artefact of interest recovered from layer (47) was a possible Romano-British horseshoe (Fig. 23: 3), indicating that horses were employed in the vicinity of the site at this time.

It is unclear exactly how the silty layers formed, but it is likely to be lack of management of the ditches, resulting in their silting and, without artificial management, lacking any immediate means to drain away excess surface water.

The early 2nd century features (Phase IV) (Fig. 17) The latest phase of activity associated with the Romano-British period is dated to the early to mid 2nd century AD, activity at this time appearing comparatively unstructured in comparison with previous Romano-British activity.

The most notable features assigned to this

phase are ditches F860 and [106]. East–west ditch F860 extended beyond the limit of excavation and possessed a concave profile with homogeneous fill throughout (Figs 17 and 18). The pottery assemblage from the ditch is small, but it is probable that a partial Samian vessel derived from the fill of this ditch is associated with this phase of Romano-British activity. Ditch [106] was adjacent to the northern boundary of the site and its proportions were similar to those of ditch F860.

The only other feature of interest assigned to this phase is small stake-hole group F23, which comprised a circular arrangement of six stake-holes forming a feature 1.1m in diameter (Fig. 17). The stake-hole group is likely to be from a small, temporary agricultural structure. Part of the feature lies outside the eastern limit of excavation.

The general Romano-British features (Fig. 17)

Because of the lack of specific dating evidence, 15 pits, 5 isolated post-holes, a short ditch terminal and a deposit spread have been only generally associated with the Romano-British period.

The Romano-British finds assemblage is relatively simple and homogeneous in character, dominated by local grey ware and oxidised sandy ware pottery. The forms encountered are predominately necked jars with rounded shoulders (Fig. 20: 27–32, 36), although a notable number of

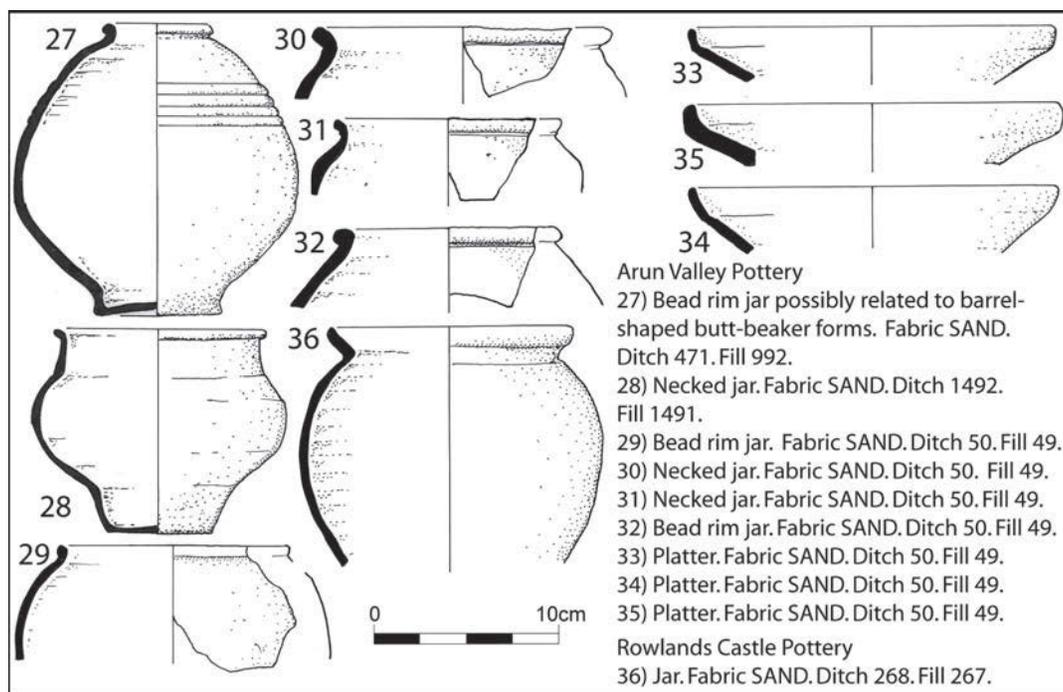


Fig. 20. Period 7 pottery.

platter forms were recovered from the fill of ditch [49] (Fig. 20: 33–35). A large number of amorphous fragments of daub were collected, mainly from mid to late 1st century AD features, indicating that daub-built structures were still present in the vicinity of the site at this time. The limited animal bone assemblage contained a range of species similar to that recorded for the Mid to Late Iron Age, albeit with increased cattle representation. The range of plant species identified through environmental analysis increased during this period, with evidence for glume wheats emmer and spelt (*Triticum dicoccum* and *T. spelta*), bread wheat (*T. aestivum*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), as well as several peas (*Pisum sativum*) and beans (*Vicia faba*, *Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Evidence for possible cultivation of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) was also found. Several fragments of greensand quern stone (Figs 19: 1 and 2) were recovered from multiple contexts, including the subsoil, indicating processing of these cereal crops on site. One pattern highlighted in several of the assemblages was the lack of imported or high-status material, significant given the close proximity of Goring villa. One of the limited examples of high-status material was a bow

brooch dated to the 1st century AD recovered from the subsoil (Fig. 23: 1).

The activity in the Early Romano-British period is of an intensity and nature similar to those in the Mid to Late Iron Age, albeit focused on land and waste management instead of settlement. There appears to be continuity in the use of the enclosures.

PERIOD 10: THE MEDIEVAL FEATURES (12TH TO 14TH CENTURY) (Fig. 21)

A substantial hiatus in activity occurred throughout the later Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods; none of the excavated features were associated with these periods. The next period of activity identified was during the 12th to 14th centuries, represented by a series of ditches and pits. Stratigraphically, the earliest feature in this period was east–west orientated shallow ditch [443]/[462] (Fig. 21). The continuation of ditch [443]/[462] may have been identified during the additional trenching works, in the form of ditch [2204] adjacent to the western boundary of the site. Pottery dated to the 12th to early 13th centuries was recovered from the fill of ditch [2204]. Ditch [443]/[462] was truncated at its

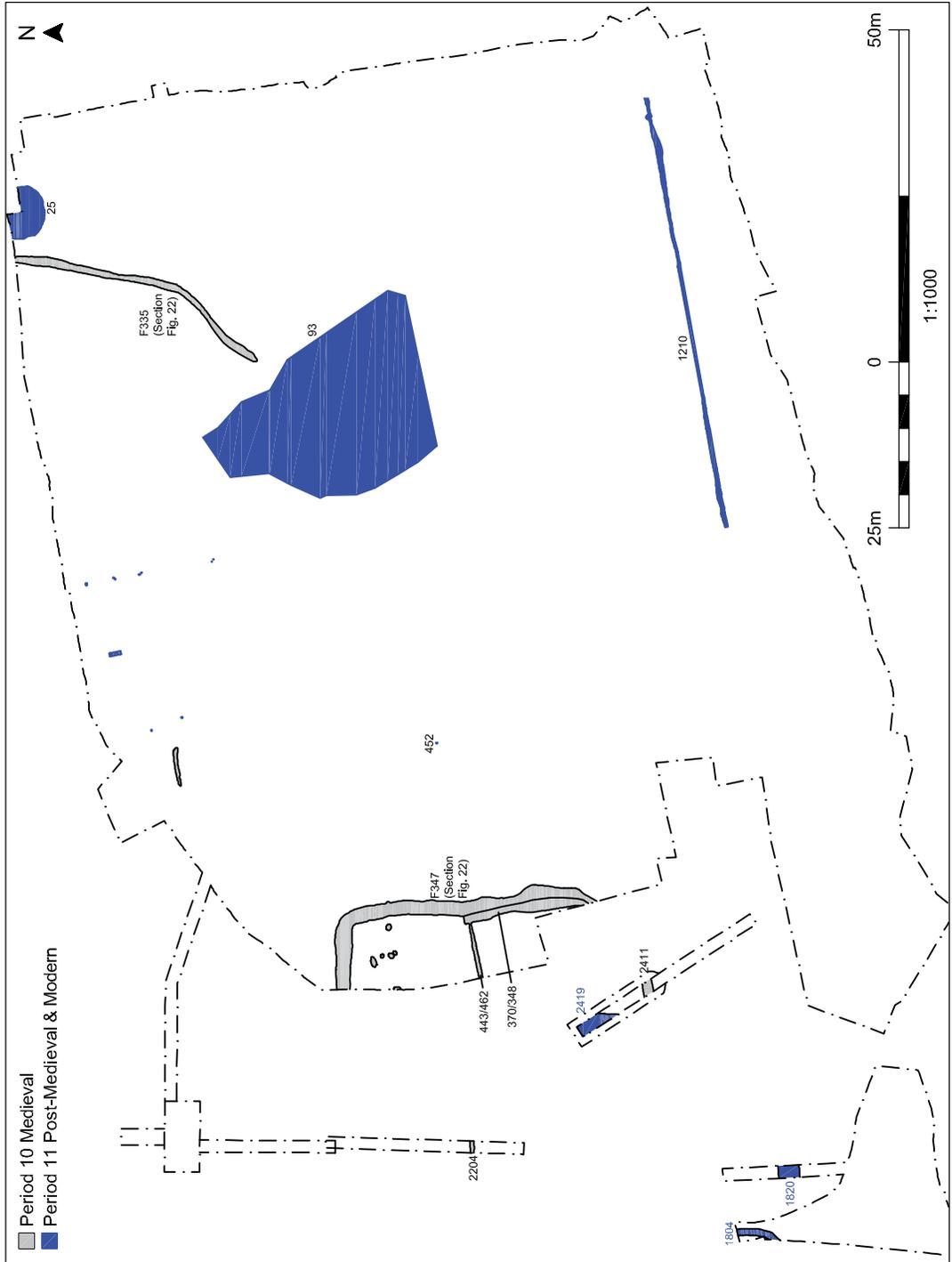


Fig. 21. Periods 10 and 11 features.

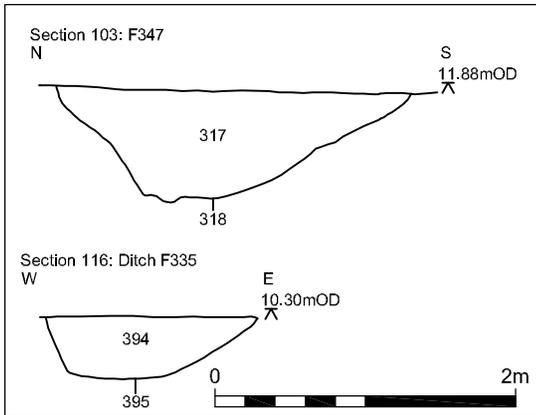


Fig. 22. Period 10 sections.

western end by another small ditch [370]/[348]. It is likely that both ditch [443]/[462] and [370]/[348] represent minor boundaries in use for a short period before being superseded.

Ditch F347 was one of the largest ditches on site, measuring 30m north-south, returning to the west at both ends and continuing beyond the area of excavation (Figs 21 and 22). The single fill observed within the ditch appeared to have silted up over a period of time, and pottery sherds dating to the mid 13th to mid 14th centuries were recovered from it. The size and shape of the ditch strongly suggest that it formed part of a larger enclosure.

In the northeast corner of the area enclosed by ditch F347 was a group of six pits. All the pits were sub-circular, measuring up to 1.75m in diameter (Fig. 21). The finds assemblages are limited, although pottery recovered indicated a date range between the late 12th and late 13th centuries, demonstrating a chronological association with ditch F347. Of interest were the 74 fragments of glass collected from the fill of one of the pits, identified as a partial blue-green cup or beaker of Roman date, clearly residual in this context.

There were two further isolated pits in the northern half of the site, both of unremarkable character, which contained pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries.

The remaining feature in the northeast corner of the site was northeast-southwest aligned ditch F335 (Fig. 21). The ditch was roughly linear, and had a rounded concave profile (Fig. 22). The function of the ditch is unclear, although it may represent a further attempt during this period to

facilitate drainage of the immediate area. This would imply that the central area of the site may have been prone to waterlogging during the medieval period as well.

The medieval activity associated with this period represents low-intensity agricultural land use, albeit with a more focused degree of activity associated with enclosure ditch F347. This 300-year period of activity is the last substantial phase of archaeological activity recorded on the site.

PERIOD 11: THE POST 14TH CENTURY TO MODERN FEATURES (Fig. 21)

After the decline of activity in the 14th century, the next archaeological phase was represented by gradual accumulation of a silty clay subsoil deposit across the full area of the site. Subsoil was recorded as having an average depth of 0.6m, with a maximum depth of 1.4m in the northeast corner of site and a minimum depth of 0.2m in the central western area. These figures show a substantial degree of variation, part of which may have been caused by later ploughing. The thicker deposits are thought to have been deposited in areas of the site which were more susceptible to damp conditions. A diverse range of finds were recovered from the subsoil, including fragments of oyster shell and stone fragments, a wide date range of pottery, and numerous metal objects such as an undiagnostic copper alloy ring, hooks, buckles, thimbles and possible toiletry items (Fig. 23: 4-9). Of greatest interest was the recovery of five medieval silver pennies, dated to between the late 12th and late 13th centuries, which were collected by means of a systematic metal detector survey undertaken during the course of the excavation. Several copper alloy bells were also recovered by this means from the topsoil (Fig. 23: 10 and 11). Analysis of the post-Roman pottery demonstrates probable low-level agricultural or manuring activity on site from the 12th to 16th centuries, with resumption in the later 18th to 19th centuries. Of additional interest was a small fragment of human bone, believed to be deposited on the site in association with other imported material. The subsoil sealed all earlier features.

Post-medieval activity on site was limited. The main feature observed was shallow east-west aligned ditch [1210] in the southern area of the site (Fig. 21). The ditch is thought to represent an earlier field boundary.

A second ditch, also believed to be post-

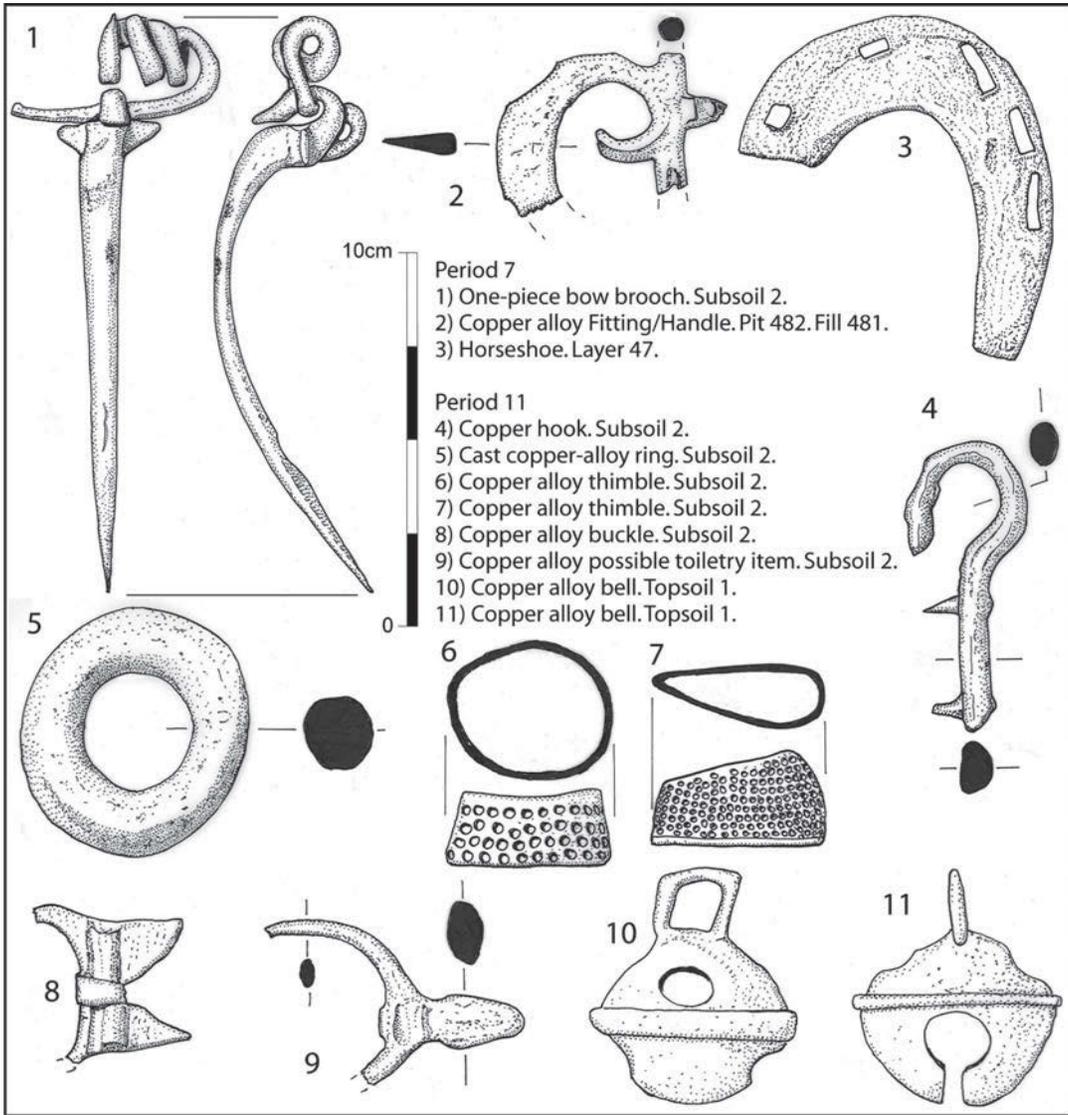


Fig 23. Period 7 and 11 metalwork.

medieval, was identified in the southwest corner of the site immediately adjacent to the modern Titnore Lane (Fig. 21). No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch, although the location of the ditch suggests that it may once have been a roadside drainage ditch.

In the western area of site two substantial ditches [1820] and [2419] were recorded, interpreted as part of the same curvilinear ditch alignment (Fig. 21). Both ditches demonstrated evidence for being

re-cut, with fragments of post-medieval brick recovered from the primary fill. It is thought that the ditch represents a pre-existing field boundary important enough to require re-defining on at least one occasion. All three post-medieval ditches are likely to pre-date the mid 19th century, as none of the ditch alignments are marked on the Tithe map of 1839.

Lying above the subsoil in the central area of site was an extensive shallow spread of a dark

silty deposit (93), measuring approximately 35m north-south by 25m east-west, up to a maximum depth of 0.3m (Fig. 21). The metal detector survey identified a moderate to high density of metal finds such as buttons, buckles and iron debris of 19th century date associated with this context. It is believed that at this time there may have been a boggy area that developed on site in which these objects were lost and from which they could not be retrieved.

Only a small number of modern features were present, consisting primarily of several pits of varying size and a series of twin post-holes on a north-south alignment running across the width of the site, associated with a modern fence line known to have previously subdivided the field. Due to the small number of post-medieval and modern features, truncation of earlier deposits was limited.

DISCUSSION

PERIODS 1 AND 2: THE MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC

The first evidence for human activity on the site is recorded in the form of a moderately sized assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork of a diverse range of forms. In the coastal plain region, it is not unusual for excavations to identify residual assemblages of Mesolithic flintwork where later prehistoric activity has been noted. Examples are known from Cope Farm (Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 234), North Bersted (Bedwin and Pitts 1978, 303), Ford Airfield (Place 2001, 5–6) and Westhampnett Area 1 (Fitzpatrick, Powell and Allen 2008, 63). Analysis of the Titnore Lane assemblage indicates a low level of activity during this period, the presence of microliths and associated debitage, together with the lack of other forms, suggesting that sporadic activity in the form of short-stay hunting camps occurred during this period (Butler 2010, 21).

The presence of Early Neolithic flintwork and pottery associated with a small number of features on site indicates that sporadic exploitation of this area continued into this period. Neolithic exploitation of the high ground of the Sussex Downs is well attested to (Drewett 2003), but far less is known about activity on the coastal plain. Unfortunately, the features excavated at Titnore Lane cannot develop this picture any further, as they closely mirror those few other Neolithic sites already known on the coastal plain, such as

Cope Farm (Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 234) and Westhampnett Area 4 (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008, 91), where few pit and gully features were associated with the period. With the limited finds assemblage recovered and range of features recorded, it is not possible to provide a full interpretation of the form of activity taking place, other than periodic use of the area by Early Neolithic populations.

PERIOD 4: THE MIDDLE TO LATE BRONZE AGE

There is a noticeable hiatus of activity on site from the later Neolithic through into the Early Bronze Age, with no signs of any observable activity taking place. It is by the Middle Bronze Age that signs of activity in the landscape re-emerge, a significant phase of activity taking place into the Late Bronze Age.

This period is represented primarily by the transit route formed of trackway F1654 and hollow way F331 running north-south across the site. The design of the transit route could be easily interpreted as a droveway, the ditches of the track (presumably with an associated bank) or higher sides of the hollow way allowing controlled movement of livestock through the landscape. What bridged the gap between the two sections of drove way is not clear; it is possible that shallow ditches, insubstantial fence-line features or traces of former hedges may have been removed by modern ploughing.

Parallels of trackways from this period are known from Westhampnett Area 4 (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008, 34) and Ford Airfield (Place 2001, 6–9). The trackways at Ford Airfield, all of which were formed of parallel ditches, were of the same approximate width and ran on linear alignments (Place 2001, 8). Place (2001, 9) suggests that the trackways at Ford Airfield were used for movement of grazing animals between the lower-lying floodplains in the summer and higher, drier areas in autumn and winter, due to the alignment of the trackway between the Arun floodplain and higher ground. The same principle holds true for the droveway at Titnore Lane, since it, too, is aligned between the higher grounds of the South Downs to the north and the lower ground of the coastal plain to the south. The low-lying ground of the coastal plain could easily have been susceptible to waterlogging during winter months at this time, making this a probable interpretation. The droveway highlights the importance of pastoral regimes at this time.

It is highly plausible that shepherds, needing to rest their flocks over night, would use the break observed in the western ditch (and possible bank) to move their flock off the trackway into open fields where respite could be gained.

Associated with the droveway, although it is not clear whether they are contemporary, were several Middle to Late Bronze Age pits which have been interpreted as fire pits. Analysis of charcoal from these pits strongly indicates predetermined selection of firewood (Allott 2010, 2). Cereal grains recovered from the fill of pit [624] suggest that emmer or spelt, and possible barley and oats, were being cultivated in the area, demonstrating the presence of arable agriculture in the vicinity of the site (Allott 2010, 2).

The immediate landscape surrounding the site appears to be usefully viewed in the context of transitory activity, without evidence of permanent or established activities. It is highly likely that the greater focus of activity in the area would have been the pre-hillfort settlement at Highdown Hill (Hamilton 2003, 70), 1.5km to the west of the site, influencing much of what was happening locally. The potential for settlement activity in close proximity to the site at this time cannot be ruled out, as demonstrated by the large assemblage of Mid to Late Bronze Age pottery recovered from pit [624].

PERIOD 5: THE LATE BRONZE AGE TO EARLY IRON AGE

Activity on the site continues from the Middle to Late Bronze Age, and through into the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, albeit in a different form. The site is no longer being used as a means of transit through the landscape, and the first evidence of settled activity is identified.

The key focus of activity during this period lies with roundhouse feature F877 which, taking account of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age features identified during the archaeological works at Northbrook College, such as the elements of two possible roundhouses immediately to the southeast of the site (James and Barber 2004, 1–2), appears to be central to other activity associated with this period. The roundhouse was of combined post and gully construction, although it is unclear whether both elements belong to the same phase of construction. The quantities of daub recovered from the fills of the roundhouse support the idea that the walls were of

wattle and daub construction. Several post-holes were in the interior of the structure, and their layout suggests that they were once associated with internal partitions rather than internal structural supports. The internal posts also indicate that the entrance doorway may lie to the southeast side of the roundhouse, but no porch structure was identified to support this conclusion.

Comparative architecture from this period is rare in the Sussex region, and of varying design, the best-known examples coming from Mile Oak, where scattered post-holes were used (Russell 2002), at Lavant, with single ring-post structures with porches (Kenny 1994), at Hollingbury, with penannular ring gullies (Holmes 1984), and at Worthing, which had a single ring post and intermittent curvilinear gully (James 2004). The closest parallel appears to be the Worthing ring-post example, where extrapolation suggests that approximately 12 post-holes would have been required to form the 8.5m diameter structure (James 2004, 7). This size would imply that roundhouse F877 was of average size for a structure of this period, with known diameters ranging from 5.5m to 13m (Hamilton 2003, 75). A review of contemporary architectural styles also implies that the various construction components of roundhouse F877 would have been employed in different phases, as no previous examples have been identified which have employed both post and gully techniques. This suggests that roundhouse F877 was rebuilt at some point during its life, using a different construction technique. The same degree of variation associated with roundhouse design can be applied to entrance orientation. For example, those roundhouses identified at Hollingbury had entrances orientated north, northeast and east (Holmes 1984), while at Lavant several roundhouses had entrances orientated to both east and west (Kenny 1994). Currently, not enough examples of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age architecture are known in Sussex to be able to draw firm conclusions about the regularity of entrance orientation.

To the east of roundhouse F877 was feature F1078, which has been interpreted as a livestock pen. Its appearance is much simpler in form than that of roundhouse F877, consisting of roughly parallel arrangements of post-holes, but with no apparent architectural consistency. Based on this analysis, a post-built enclosure for livestock,

modified on occasion to produce variations in post alignments, seems a logical interpretation. It may suggest a pastoral economic element associated with the settlement. No immediate parallels with such a structure have been identified, but on sites such as Lavant (Kenny 1994) may easily be concealed within the numerous post-hole spreads that were discovered.

The range of pit features associated with this period can be attributed primarily to disposal of waste deriving from settlement activity. Consideration must be given, though, to their distance from the settlement focus, roundhouse F877. Pits of this character from this period have been observed elsewhere on the coastal plain, at locations such as Ford Airfield (Place 2001) and Yapton (Rudling 1987). A pattern noted at the Titnore Lane site is that three pits, in combination with ditch [812]/[820], were cut through the Middle to Late Bronze Age trackway. This could be a coincidence, but a similar sequence of activity was recorded at Ford Airfield, where Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Pit Complex P3-9 was cut into the projected course of the earlier Trackway 2 (Place 2001, 6). Deliberate truncation of earlier, now redundant, trackways could be interpreted as meaningful acts, designed specifically to mark the transition in regimes in the landscape, and perhaps indicating ownership of that environment. In this case the transition would signify domestic use of the landscape. Further evidence of marking of territorial ownership may be present in the form of the ditches excavated to the southwest corner of the site, although too little of the ditches was exposed to explore their purpose fully.

Information is also available on the economy of the Titnore Lane Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement. The presence of livestock pen F1078, associated with the limited animal bone assemblage for this period, indicates that both cattle and horse were present on the site. The cattle were most probably used for food and clothing, while the horses were used for more utilitarian purposes (Ayton 2010, 24). This evidence strongly supports the presence of a pastoral economy. The environmental evidence also demonstrates that emmer/spelt, barley and wild or cultivated oats may have been grown on or near the site (Allott 2010, 2). The discovery of a Greensand quern stone indicates processing of such crops, all indicative of the presence of an arable economy. It is likely that

the settlement identified at Titnore Lane at this time was just one of a growing number associated with increasing use of the coastal landscape for the purposes of agriculture. Analysis of sediments from the Ferring Rife indicates a significant increase in sedimentation during the Late Bronze Age and increased levels of soil erosion associated with land clearance and agriculture (Drewett 1989, 28).

A domestic supply of pottery was being supplied by means of the clamp kilns identified in the area of Northbrook College, one immediately to the south of the site boundary, and the other to the eastern side of the current Northbrook College building (James 2001b, 6; D. Rudling pers. comm.). The knapping debris recovered on the site indicates that the flint tools were being created within the settlement. In contrast, though, the used flint assemblage is limited, consisting mainly of scrapers, suggesting that other forms such as arrowheads and used blades were being used consistently away from the area of settlement. The raw materials (pebble flint) were most probably sourced from either the coastline or raised beach deposits (Butler 2010, 21). Domestic weaving was also taking place, as indicated by the discovery of clay loom weights.

The evidence from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age period includes the first signs of settlement in this part of the immediate landscape. The spatial distribution of these features indicates that settlement and activity at this time were quite dispersed. Overall, the collated evidence indicates the presence of an unenclosed, dispersed Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement on the site, supporting a mixed agricultural regime for its subsistence. Key materials such as pottery and flint tools were being produced on site, with the raw materials required for their manufacture probably available locally, limiting the need for imported materials such as the Greensand quern. No materials were identified that would suggest more long-distance or continental contacts, known from other sites of a similar period (Hamilton 2003, 77). Parallels to this type of settlement pattern are difficult to find, not only because of the lack of sites excavated on this scale, but also because in those larger-scale sites settlement tends to be more clustered. The closest comparison might be Hollingbury (Holmes 1984) because of its slightly more dispersed lay-out, in association with a range of contemporary activities taking place.

By the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age period it is clear that the Sussex coastal plain is being significantly inhabited for the first time, with evidence for settlement stretching along its full length (Hamilton 2003). The Titnore Lane evidence fits well into this picture, representing a landscape becoming increasingly dominated by settlement and mixed farming. A similar level of settlement density would have been seen in the locality of the site, with the Late Bronze Age hillfort of Highdown Hill *c.* 1.5km to the west (Wilson 1950) and the contemporary settlement at Worthing (James 2004) *c.* 2km to the northeast.

PERIOD 6: THE MIDDLE TO LATE IRON AGE

With the onset of the Middle to Late Iron Age, the continuity in the type and nature of the activity taking place is very apparent. The extensive settlement and associated activity of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age develop into a far more intensively occupied settlement with a high density of associated activity. The intensity of Middle to Late Iron Age activity is defined by three phases of activity within the settlement.

The first phase (Phase I), associated with the Middle Iron Age, is represented by three, possibly four, roundhouses, F334, F1079, F1199 and [1219]. The three definite roundhouses vary in diameter from 8m to 10m, and have no obvious internal features or entrances. All three were constructed using a technique that makes use of both posts and gullies, suggesting that each had been repaired or rebuilt on at least one occasion. The Phase I pits excavated may well indicate disposal of waste at this time, while two large east–west aligned ditches to the south of the roundhouse appear to represent the southern boundary and limit of the settlement at this time. No features associated with this phase have been identified further to the south.

The second phase (Phase II), straddling the Middle to Late Iron Age, represents continuation of settlement activity, with three additional roundhouse structures being built, F1363, F1364 and [927]/[934]. All three structures were located in the same general area as the preceding roundhouses, and were approximately the same size, with a diameter of between 8m and 9m. Roundhouse F1363 was the most complete example of a roundhouse recorded during the course of the excavations, defined by two penannular gullies, with one group of post-holes

located to the western extent of the structure, where the entrance is thought to be, and four post-holes clustered internally. The four internal post-holes may represent an internal partition.

The plans of the two other roundhouses were not as detailed as those of roundhouse F1363, although roundhouse F1364 supports dual use of post and gully construction techniques, replicating the same techniques and interpretations placed on the earlier Phase I roundhouses. The settlement no longer appears to warrant use of substantive ditches to demarcate the southern boundary, which are replaced by fence line F1080 which was only visible to the southwest of the roundhouses. During this period pond F1656, with associated ditch F810, was created. This would imply that the rate of water consumption required by the settlement was significant, beyond that required by the immediate human population, and, without signs of significant industrial activity, a sensible interpretation would be watering of livestock. This would tie in with the interpretation of features [1425] and [1615] as possible drinking troughs.

Phase III represents activity on site during the latest period of the Iron Age. Roundhouses are still represented, although only two examples were identified compared with the three or four assigned to the previous phases of activities. Roundhouse F1651 was approximately the same size as the earlier roundhouses, being 10m in diameter and constructed using the gully technique. The most significant aspect of this phase is roundhouse F333, its size, at 15m in diameter, making it substantially larger than any of the roundhouses previously observed. Little can be said about the activities taking place internally within roundhouse F333, due to the lack of features, although it may be speculated that the entrance was positioned to the northwest. The ring-ditch construction technique may also be a scaled-up version of the gully technique, enabling a much larger structure to be constructed.

Smaller-scale settlement activity was also seen between the roundhouses; the large pits suggest that disposal of waste is occurring in close proximity to the living areas, while the smaller gullies and post-holes may represent small subsidiary structures. This phase of the settlement is still being supported by pond F1656, highlighting its importance to the economy of the settlement. The importance of this feature is reinforced by the

fact that a new ditch, F1657, had been cut to act as a new means of water supply, presumably because of the silting up of ditch F810, or the drying up of the water source exploited. The other major feature associated with this phase is enclosure [491], later re-cut, the first appearance of an enclosure of this scale on site. It is directly adjacent to the settlement, providing direct access and security for, presumably, the livestock contained within. Finds recovered from the enclosure ditch did not suggest that any other form of activity was taking place within the enclosure.

The other features generally assigned to the Middle to Late Iron Age period cannot easily be placed within the existing Phases I to III, but still contribute a significant amount of information to understanding of the Iron Age settlement. They represent the more peripheral elements of settlement activity. The full extent of the settlement is always a difficult question in relation to unenclosed settlements, but ditch [755]/[795] may at least define the southwest boundary of at least one phase of the settlement. No Iron Age features were observed further to the west of ditch [755]/[795] during the course of the excavations. Livestock pen features F1653 and F1652 were located approximately 50m away from the core of the settlement activity, and fit the same format as that of earlier Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age livestock pen F1078. Their relationship with livestock enclosure [491] is hard to judge, but it seems unlikely that all three enclosures were in use at the same time, suggesting that livestock pens F1653 and F1652 would have been in use during the earlier part of this period, replaced later by the larger enclosure.

Features F332 and [1310] are more enigmatic. They, too, lie approximately 50m from the core of the settlement, placing them on the periphery. Feature F332 conforms to the established format of a single-phase post-built roundhouse, albeit slightly smaller at 7m in diameter, plus the unique feature of a possible porch facing northwest. The presence of a porch, implying incorporation of a door, and its orientation away from the settlement core, may suggest that a degree of privacy or secrecy was required for the activities taking place inside the structure. To have this structure isolated from the core of an intensively used settlement marks it as being different, not used for habitation but perhaps as a workshop. The character of feature

[1310] closely resembles that of the ring-gully roundhouses of the settlement, with the difference that the ring gully defines the area in which several pits have been dug. The ring gully could be the structural element of another roundhouse-type construction of similar size to feature F332, although the pits would not suggest domestic activity, and feature [1310] may possibly represent another workshop. Potential parallels for both features could be drawn from the working area excavated at Copse Farm (Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 218–19).

One feature of note was the four-post structure [302] found in the southeast corner of the site. Iron Age four-post structures are relatively uncommon in Sussex, and only a limited number have been identified, at sites like Bishopstone (Bell 1977, 71), Mile Oak (Russell 2002, 30), Lavant (Kenny 1994, 23) and North Bersted (Taylor and Weale forthcoming, 4–8). Two examples of 3m-square four-post structures, incorporating post-pads, were found to the north of the main villa building at Northbrook College, and were tentatively associated with the high-density Romano-British activity occurring on the college site (Rudling 1984, 38–9, fig. 5). This evidence suggests that the four-post structure building tradition may extend from the Iron Age into the Romano-British period in this region.

The size of these examples varies in plan from between 1m and 3m square, placing the Titnore Lane four-post structure at the lower end of the size range. In terms of function, a range of interpretations have been suggested, including that they were shrines, blacksmith forges and platforms, although their function as granaries is the function most quoted (Russell 2002, 30).

The evidence presented for Middle to Late Iron Age activity is substantial, the greatest number of features associated with a single period identified on site. It is clear that the three phases of roundhouse construction were developing in an uninterrupted fashion, and in the same location as the earlier Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement. The scale of the settlement appears to remain approximately the same size, as indicated by three to four roundhouses of roughly equal dimensions. It is only in the latest of the three Iron Age phases that the number of roundhouses appears to decrease, although roundhouse F333 is significantly larger than any of its predecessors.

It is possible to envisage the nucleated settlement supporting a roughly stable population of three or four family groups, with roundhouse F333 providing shelter for a proportionally larger number of people. It is not clear whether the larger size of roundhouse F333 was also representative of a higher social status for the occupants.

The changing architecture of the roundhouses is also significant, as a possible pattern emerges in regard to the techniques employed. The earliest Phase I roundhouses appear to employ a mixture of construction styles, using both post-built and gully-built structures. The gully-built structures are most likely to be the result of foundations that use small posts supporting wattle walls (Reid 1993, 56) or turf- or cob-constructed walls (Evans *et al.* 2006, 44). Viewing the Phase II settlement, again both techniques can be seen to be used, although gully-constructed roundhouses seem to be dominant. By Phase III only gully, or the scaled-up ring ditch variation of construction, is evident. The evidence viewed in this way could suggest a gradual move away from the established post-built construction technique of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, through into a building tradition dominated by gully-built roundhouses by the Late Iron Age. It must be noted that several of the roundhouses display signs of mixed construction, employing both posts and gullies. It is unclear whether a single technique was used in any one phase of construction, but it is evident that these roundhouses have undergone one or more phases of repair or rebuilding. This suggests that the builders invested time, effort and commitment in maintaining the roundhouses, or at least aimed to retain the same structural footprint, supporting the image of a sizeable permanent settlement.

Comparative sites in the region which contain examples of Middle to Late Iron Age roundhouse architecture are limited in number, the best examples identified being at Westhampnett Area 5 (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008), North Bersted (Bedwin and Pitts 1978) and Copse Farm (Bedwin and Holgate 1985). The closest in scale to that identified at Titnore Lane comes from Westhampnett Area 5, where five possible post-built, unclosed roundhouses with diameters varying between 5.5m and 8m in diameter were excavated (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008, 145). At North Bersted and Copse Farm, only single examples were observed, both gully-constructed, with diameters of between 6m and

7m (Bedwin and Pitts 1978, 300–301; Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 219).

It is difficult to make comparisons on the scale of Middle to Late Iron Age settlements because of the limited number of large-scale excavations in the region where material of this date has been identified. Westhampnett does indicate, though, that other nucleated unenclosed settlements from this period exist. With the exception of roundhouse F333, the roundhouses observed at Titnore Lane are slightly larger than those observed elsewhere. Roundhouse F333 is larger than any other roundhouse recorded in Sussex, which places it on a par with roundhouses of the Wessex Iron Age tradition (Hamilton 2003). One of the most notable differences between the roundhouse at Titnore Lane and those found elsewhere is the fact that all previous known examples appear to be of single-phase construction. This may indicate that the Titnore Lane examples were in use for a more sustained period of time, requiring repair and rebuilding at intervals.

Another distinctive element of the Middle to Late Iron Age settlement is the presence of the large pond F1656 immediately to the north. The presence of ponds associated with settlement sites is not unusual, but in this case it is the size (and by implication the volume of water held) of the feature that is significant. Contemporary ponds are known from sites at Cissbury, where three possible ponds measuring approximately 12m in diameter have been identified (Donachie and Field 1994, 30), and Woolbury, Hampshire, measuring 8m wide (Cunliffe and Poole 1989, 29). Ponds have also been found at earlier settlement sites like Blackpatch which were approximately the same size (Drewett 1980, 383). The effort required to create such a feature would be a significant investment of time and labour for the settlement, with clear benefits for those who lived there. If they were for watering livestock, it would suggest that a large herd could be maintained. The physical evidence also indicates that the pond was in use for most of the Middle to Late Iron Age period, indicating that the function of this feature was maintained.

It has been identified that pond F1656 was supplied with water by two ditch systems, F810 and F1657. The requirement for ditches to feed water to the pond implies that the pond could not naturally maintain the water level required, and that an artificial supply was needed to support

the level of consumption. Recognising the source of the water input is a significant part of this relationship. Ditch F810 travels away from the site on a northwest alignment which, if this alignment remains constant, would lead it to the area of land in the vicinity of Hightiten Barn approximately 400m away. The source of the Ferring Rife is known to run due south from the foot of Highdown Hill (Drewett 1989, 22), in close proximity to Hightiten Barn, and it may have been this river that initially supplied pond F1656. Ditch F1657 travels away from the site in an easterly direction. In this direction, approximately 500m distant, lies a further tributary of the Ferring Rife, indicating that the river catchment area was once again used to supply fresh water to the pond at a later date. It is difficult to identify why there was a change in the direction in the supply of water from northwest to east, but it is likely to be associated with the reliability of supply between the two sources.

In Phase III of the settlement, enclosure [491] appears to be as important a feature as pond F1656, defining a large area of ground adjacent to the settlement. The full area of the enclosure could not be fully defined, as only the northern element lay within the area of excavation, but it appears to be on a similar scale to the Late Iron Age enclosure at Copse Farm, which measured approximately 25m by 25m, and also appeared to have the entrance to the enclosure on the eastern side (Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 217–19). Several other sites of this period in the Sussex region have produced evidence of substantial enclosures, at locations such as Ounces Barn (Bedwin and Place 1995), North Bersted (Bedwin and Pitts 1978), and Bishopstone (Bell 1977). Analysis of the interior of these enclosures indicates that they contained evidence of various activities, with a working area at Copse Farm, smaller post-built enclosures at Ounces Barn, and a substantial number of four- and five-post structures at Bishopstone (Bedwin and Holgate 1985, 217–19; Bedwin and Place 1995, 58–9; Bell 1977, 71). In general, it appears that, functionally, these enclosures were being used for different purposes. Unfortunately, this does not help to explain the use of the Titnore Lane enclosure, because only a few features were identified in the interior of the enclosure, limited to a cluster of several undiagnostic pits and post-holes. With the presence on the site of several other features interpreted as associated with the

corralling or sustenance of livestock, it is possible that enclosure [491] was also created for the containment and control of livestock.

It is important to note the lay-out of the settlement and its variation over time. From initial analysis, the multiple roundhouses represent a nucleated unenclosed settlement, with substantial evidence for continuity of activity throughout the Middle to Late Iron Age period. Each phase is represented by the establishment of a new roundhouse in a slightly different location from that of its predecessors, although each phase still focuses on the same settlement core. This would imply that there were defined limits to the settlement. It appears that these limits were substantially defined only during the initial Phase II of the settlement, when ditches were present defining the southern boundary and internal divisions. To the southwest of the roundhouses, by Phase III, the only evidence of boundary markers is right-angled fence line F1080. Such boundary alignments must have remained established throughout this period, because by the Late Iron Age the alignment of the north ditch of enclosure [491] still respected the alignment of ditch [1119]. Outside the settlement core, more peripheral activity was taking place. To the north and east of the settlement this peripheral activity appears to be associated with different phases of the control of livestock associated with pens F1653 and F1652, and enclosure [491], in addition to provision of drinking water for livestock in the form of pond F1656. To the southwest of the settlement, ditch [755]/[795] appears to mark the furthest extent of the settlement, adjacent to which lie workshop features F332 and 1310. The location of the two workshop features also suggests that this type of activity was conducted in the settlement periphery, away from the core domestic activity. Segregation of different activities is clearly taking place during the Middle to Late Iron Age.

Evidence for the type of economic activity taking place at this time is sparse, but it is possible to reconstruct a picture of how the Middle to Late Iron Age settlement subsisted. The greatest weight of evidence indicates that a pastoral economy played a very important part in settlement life, evidenced by pens F1653 and F1652, enclosure [491] and pond F1656. The limited animal bone assemblage indicated that cattle were present on site, associated with horses (Ayton 2010, 25).

An arable element to the economy is also noted, environmental analysis producing evidence for processed cereal grains including emmer/spelt wheat, barley and occasional oat/chess grass (Allott 2010, 3). No field systems of this date have been identified on or near the site, but it is likely that field systems were present similar to those observed at North Bersted, Ford Airfield and Bishopstone (Bedwin and Pitts 1978; Place 2001; Bell 1977). Debris collected from the pits included fragments of kiln lining and iron-smithing slag, plus fragments of two different triangular loom weights, which indicates metalwork and weaving taking place within the settlement. Even though these fragments were found in secondary contexts, there may be a relation to the workshop structures discovered to the southwest of the roundhouses. The pottery assemblage suggests that occasional trade or exchange was taking place over extended distances, due to the presence of a small number of Upper Greensand inclusions, a mineral which outcrops 10km to the north of the site. This fabric is uncommon on the coastal plain at this time, with the only other similar contemporary fabrics known from excavations at Angmering (Doherty 2010, 6), Carnes Seat and Cissbury (Seager Thomas pers. comm.). Identification of similar fabrics restricted to sites in the immediate region could imply that these fabrics were being manufactured locally.

The economic base of the Middle to Late Iron Age settlement appears very similar to that of the earlier Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement, with the concentration on mixed agriculture, assisted by horses, with textile production also taking place. What is also apparent is the lack of any obvious imported items, apart from the pottery, indicating limited wealth or trade contacts.

A review of the features found during the course of the Northbrook College archaeological investigations revealed that only a few features were identified that were firmly associated with the Mid to Late Iron Age. Three Late Iron Age ditches were found in the central northern area of the College site, one during the first-phase evaluation, and the second two in the second-phase evaluation (Stevens 1997, 11; James 2001b, 4–6). In addition, two further possible Iron Age pit features were identified during the second-phase evaluation (James 2001b, 4–6).

Incorporating the results of the investigations undertaken at Northbrook College, the Mid to Late

Iron Age activity appears to be fairly concentrated and contained primarily within the bounds of the Titnore Lane site.

PERIODS 7 AND 8: THE ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD

A discussion of the 1st to 2nd century AD Romano-British activity at the site must consider excavations that have taken place to the south at Northbrook College.

The majority of archaeological features identified at Northbrook College are Romano-British in date. The earliest evidence was recorded during the 2004 excavation, consisting of elements of a roundhouse and ditch dated to the Late Iron Age–Early Romano-British transition (James and Barber 2004, 1–2). Postdating this activity, several ditches and pits aligned north–south were recorded in both the first phase evaluation and later excavation (Stevens 1997, 8; James and Barber 2004, 1–2) thought to be associated with the early to mid 1st century AD field system identified to the north. The system of north–south aligned ditches appears to have been replaced by a series of later east–west aligned ditches, identified in all phases of work (Stevens 1997, 7–12; James 2001b, 4–6; James and Barber 2004, 1–2; D. Rudling pers. comm.), which may be contemporary with the early 2nd century AD features on site. The main focus of this activity is in the centre of the site and consists of a 2nd to 3rd century small corridor villa and associated detached bathhouse with adjacent well (Rudling 1983, 87–9; 2003, fig. 9.2). In close proximity to the villa buildings were two possible corn-drying kilns and several timber buildings (D. Rudling pers. comm.). Distributed across the full area of the college site were other features including pits, post-holes and additional smaller structures ranging in date between the 1st and early 4th centuries AD (Stevens 1997, 7–12; James 2001b, 4–6; James and Barber 2004, 1–2; D. Rudling pers. comm.). The centre of the villa estate lies within the area of Northbrook College and extends north into the site. Evidence from fieldwalking of adjacent land may also indicate that the villa estate extends further to the west, as a high concentration of Romano-British pottery was recorded in an area immediately to the northwest of Goring Crossway (Yates 1990).

The Titnore Lane excavation has revealed a fair proportion of the Goring villa estate but, since it has not been possible to publish the results of

the Northbrook College investigations, very little is known about Goring villa and the villa estate core. The aim is to discuss the Romano-British features identified at Titnore Lane in relation to the information on the villa currently available, where possible.

The first phase (I) of Romano-British activity dates to between the early to mid 1st century AD, that is, activity occurring during the transitional Conquest period, which is represented by the enclosure F844, the remnants of pond F1656 and the ditches cut to drain it. The date ranges obtained from the pottery strongly indicate continuity of activity between the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, which is supported by early Romano-British pottery associated with the upper fills of pond F1656, a key feature from the previous period. The most noticeable change in this early Romano-British phase is the disuse and desertion of the Middle to Late Iron Age settlement and associated activity. No indication of settlement can be observed, which suggests either immediate environmental changes, such as alteration in the ground conditions, or local political changes. Whatever the reason for the desertion of the settlement, it is unlikely that the population moved very far, as a roundhouse tentatively dated to this period was identified during the excavation works to the southeast of the site (James and Barber 2004).

The draining of pond F1656 demonstrates a clear intention that the original function of the pond is no longer required, and its presence is viewed as an obstruction in the landscape. At a similar time, enclosure F844 is created and is in use. The enclosure is similar in size and lay-out to the early Romano-British enclosure found at Wickbourne Estate (Gilkes 1993, 5–7), although smaller than the enclosure discovered at Ford Airfield (Place 2001, 12). All three enclosures are of a similar sub-rectangular shape. The function of enclosure F844 is difficult to gauge, due to the lack of contemporary features identified within the enclosure and the limited assemblage of finds. One feasible interpretation is that it relates to the pastoral economy and the maintenance of livestock, and has replaced the function of the Late Iron Age enclosure [491] in securing cattle herds.

The second phase (Phase II) of Romano-British activity, between the mid and late 1st century AD, demonstrates that further significant changes are occurring over a short period of time. A series of

predominantly north–south orientated ditches are cut, one of which truncates the now disused enclosure F844, which appear to represent creation of a new field system, potentially parcelling areas of the site up into north–south orientated rectangular fields. Traces of north–south aligned ditches containing finds from this period were found during the first-phase evaluation and both excavations (Stevens 1997, 7–12; James 2001b, 4–6; James and Barber 2004, 1–2; D. Rudling pers. comm.), indicating that this field system continued further to the south. Occupation is obviously taking place in close proximity, evidenced by the quantity of domestic waste recovered from the large pits adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. The character of these pits suggests they may have originally been cut as cess pits, but were subsequently used for disposal of domestic waste. The assemblage from the pits includes a small number of finds associated with a high-status residence. At least one structure from this period was identified during the first-phase evaluation at Northbrook College, and another structure was identified close to the boundary between the two sites which might explain the source of the domestic waste (Stevens 1997, 7–12). The quantity of daub recovered from features associated with this phase also suggest that these structures, or others in close proximity, are of wattle and daub construction.

A short hiatus of activity on site appears to have occurred between the end of the late 1st century and the early 2nd century (Phase III), characterised by the silting up and disuse of the earlier field system and the accumulation of silty spreads of material as the result of a damper environment and lack of field management. Further dumps of pottery recovered from these silty spreads strongly indicate that activity associated with the Goring villa estate continued during this phase.

The final phase (Phase IV) of Roman-British activity during the early to mid 2nd century is represented by east–west orientated ditch F860. Numerous other east–west aligned ditches of this date were encountered during all phases of archaeological work on the Northbrook College site (Stevens 1997, 7–12; James 2001, 4–6; James and Barber 2004, 1–2; D. Rudling pers. comm.), indicating that ditch F860 could be part of a new phase of an extensive field system. The old north–south pattern was not re-adopted, resulting in a

complete reorientation of the field system. A factor in the introduction of a new field system could be the construction of the Goring villa building, which is thought to have been constructed initially in the 2nd century AD. A new villa may imply a new landowner, or at least a new phase of development in the surrounding estate.

There is no Romano-British activity on the Titnore Lane site dating after the early to mid 2nd century, which contrasts significantly with the evidence from the Northbrook College excavations where it appears that activity continued into the 3rd or early 4th century AD (James 2001b, 4–6). Why this area of land was no longer exploited by the villa is unclear, although its predisposition to becoming waterlogged may be a factor, but it is likely that the focus of the villa's agricultural activity shifted elsewhere in the immediate landscape.

The presence of two different phases of field systems is a strong indicator that agriculture was the dominant activity in this area of the Goring Roman villa's estate. The environmental evidence collected from the Titnore Lane excavation indicates that a significant range of crop types were being exploited, including glume wheats, emmer and spelt, bread wheat, barley, peas, beans and perhaps flax. An ordered and regularly segmented field system would allow efficient cultivation of a variety of crops. The numerous quern stones recovered also indicate processing of cereals near the site. The faunal assemblage, as with the previous periods, indicates that both cattle and horses were present on site, supporting the view of a mixed economy supported by horses.

When considered alongside the evidence for Romano-British activity to the south of the site, it is clear that the Titnore Lane excavation features represent the northern elements of the estate associated with Goring villa, demonstrating how the areas outside the central villa core were being used for the purposes of agriculture. Current data on Goring villa indicates that its period of use was between the 2nd and early 4th centuries AD, which shows that the Romano-British activity on site predates the establishment of the villa, but the area was abandoned, perhaps a whole century before the villa fell into disuse. The possible cessation of activity associated with Goring villa in the 3rd century AD may relate to the roughly contemporary refortification of Highdown Hill.

Studies on the periphery of villa estates have received only limited attention. The Fishbourne Palace estate has received some study, but initial evidence indicates that much of the palace periphery was given over to aesthetic displays rather than practical agriculture (Manley 2003, 134–5). Field systems associated with villa estates have been studied in association with the villa at Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, where a villa of similar size and date to Goring was identified as having several phases of field systems, each on a slightly different orientation and scale, each phase appearing to be associated with expansion and changes in the villa building itself (Green 1978, 106–13).

The villa and the villa estate would not have existed in isolation, but would have been one of numerous villa estates on the coastal plain that had an impact on the landscape. In the surrounding area, other contemporary villas were located at Littlehampton (Gilkes 1993), Angmering (Gilkes 1999), Highdown Hill (Wilson 1950) and Southwick (Rudling 1985). This creates an image of a densely settled environment, and intense exploitation of the agricultural potential of landscape.

PERIOD 10: THE MEDIEVAL (12TH TO 14TH CENTURY)

From the early 2nd century AD there appears to be a hiatus in activity on the site for approximately a millennium. No features were found during the course of the excavation associated with the later Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon periods. The reason for this is unclear, but may suggest a refocus of settlement elsewhere, possibly towards Highdown Hill, perhaps motivated by a significant change in the political environment or increasing waterlogging of the immediate area.

Evidence for human activity re-establishes itself during the 12th century, represented initially by several small ditches subsequently replaced by large enclosure ditch F347. Only the eastern element of the enclosure was uncovered during the course of the excavation, observations indicating that the enclosure was possibly 45m in length by up to 30m wide. The function of the enclosure cannot be defined with any great certainty, as only a limited number of internal features were identified consisting of shallow undiagnostic pits and only a limited finds assemblage was recovered from the enclosure ditch. At Eastwick Barn, Brighton,

a contemporary enclosure has been investigated, revealing a similar, roughly square-shaped livestock enclosure approximately 120m² in size (Barber *et al.* 2002, 139). The Titnore Lane enclosure could be ten times the size of the Eastwick Barn enclosure, but may have had a similar function. Instead of a small flock, the Titnore Lane enclosure may have been able to contain a whole herd. The site's proximity to the medieval settlement of Goring makes it well-placed to house livestock temporarily before taking them to the market c.1.4km to the south.

The excavation results indicate that the enclosure existed in reasonable isolation, as the other notable feature from this period was ditch F335 in the northeast corner of the site. The ditch did not contain any significant diagnostic features, but is most likely to represent one element of a medieval field system as identified at America Wood, Ashington (Priestley-Bell 1994). If a medieval field system is present, it is most likely to lie in the area beyond the northeast limit of the excavation.

Medieval activity lasted for up to three hundred years before the ditches went into disuse during the 14th century, and no replication of intensive use of the site as in previous periods has been attested to. Even so, the medieval features uncovered at Titnore Lane are significant, because current understanding of the rural medieval landscape of the coastal plain is limited, and features of this nature are rare.

PERIOD 11: THE LATE MEDIEVAL, POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS

From the 15th century onwards, little in the way of direct activity occurs on the site. The excavation results indicate that for much of the post-medieval period soil horizons across the site were accumulating at a varying rate. One influence on how the soil horizons formed could be associated with the intermittent ploughing taking place, represented by sherds of late medieval and post-medieval pottery incorporated into the soil through manuring. The diversity of finds recovered from the subsoil indicates that ploughing was taking place, evident in the disturbance of earlier features and the movement of prehistoric and Romano-British finds into the upper soil horizons. This evidence indicates that the site had not been completely abandoned, but was still exploited for agricultural purposes.

The intensive metal-detector survey undertaken

during the stripping of overlying deposits produced a number of interesting finds, including a range of thimbles, crotal bells, buttons and buckles from these periods. Of greatest interest were six residual silver coins from the 12th and 13th centuries, probably associated with activity taking place in relation to enclosure F347. A concentration of 19th century metal finds was associated with feature [93], the boggy character of which suggests that it may have encouraged accidental loss of objects from those travelling through the vicinity. The outline of feature [93] is close to that of the Iron Age and Romano-British pond F1656, indicating that the presence of the once existing pond may have encouraged localised boggy conditions during periods of damper weather. In general, the metalwork assemblage indicates a low level of general activity from the late medieval period though into the 20th century.

The remaining features associated with post-medieval field boundaries and modern farming support the view of activity gained from the metalwork assemblage, and provide an image of a post-medieval and modern rural landscape widely observed throughout West Sussex and beyond.

CONCLUSIONS

For several reasons, the Titnore Lane site is highly significant with regard to the archaeology of the Sussex Coastal Plain. The most immediate reason is the sheer range of periods archaeologically represented on site, with evidence for all periods from the Mesolithic through to the Modern period, omitting only the Anglo-Saxon period. This level of activity demonstrates how appealing the area of the site must have been in the past to attract such consistent attention, indicating that the basic resources people require have been continuously available to make sustained activity and settlement a meaningful proposition.

Such density of occupation frequently lends itself to continuity of activity, and this site has not been an exception. In fact, continuity in use of the site appears to extend from the Middle Bronze Age right through into the early 2nd century AD, a period of over one and half millennia, with proven settlement for 1000 years of that time. This period of activity goes beyond the range of occupation exhibited on any other site excavated on the coastal plain. It cannot be established whether this

level of continuity is the result of a tradition of landownership held within a single family group, or a result of consistent environment and resource availability, although the economy of each period of settlement can be established. Each phase of settlement activity consistently provides evidence of a mixed farming economy, with limited signs of high status or distant trade contacts until the building of the villa. Even then, the Romano-British finds assemblage collected indicates only low representation of wealth.

The level of continuity also allows a picture of how the local landscape has been affected and exploited over time. Between the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic such impacts would have been small, involving a few scattered groups moving through the landscape. By the Middle Bronze Age, this transitory view of the landscape had increased in scale and impact. Movement was no longer restricted to small groups; by now people were driving herds of animals over land that had been deliberately cleared and marked for that purpose. This would probably leave large linear trails through the local established vegetation cover, running between important focal points in the landscape. Further substantial areas of ground must have been cleared to make way for settlement from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, surrounded by open ground for livestock and cultivated fields. The Middle to Late Iron Age settlement, covering all of one hectare including the artificial pond, would have dominated the immediate landscape. The area covered by the Goring Roman villa was evidently larger still than the previous settlement. The apparent absence of a local Roman settlement after the late 3rd/early 4th century, except for the possible late Roman refortification of the rampart at Highdown Hill camp, until the appearance in

the late 5th century of the Saxon cemetery and associated settlement, again at Highdown, leaves the nature of local settlement on the Sussex coastal plain in the late Roman period poorly understood.

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